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James Seneca





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THE
BRITISH PROSE WRITERS.

VOL. VI.

LADY RUSSELL'S LETTERS.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY JOHN SHARPE,
PICCADILLY.

1819—21.



LADY
RUSSELL'S LETTERS.
VOL. I.



The Only at Websters

G. MURRAY Esq.

LONDON, PUBLISHED BY JOHN SHARPE, PICCADILLY.

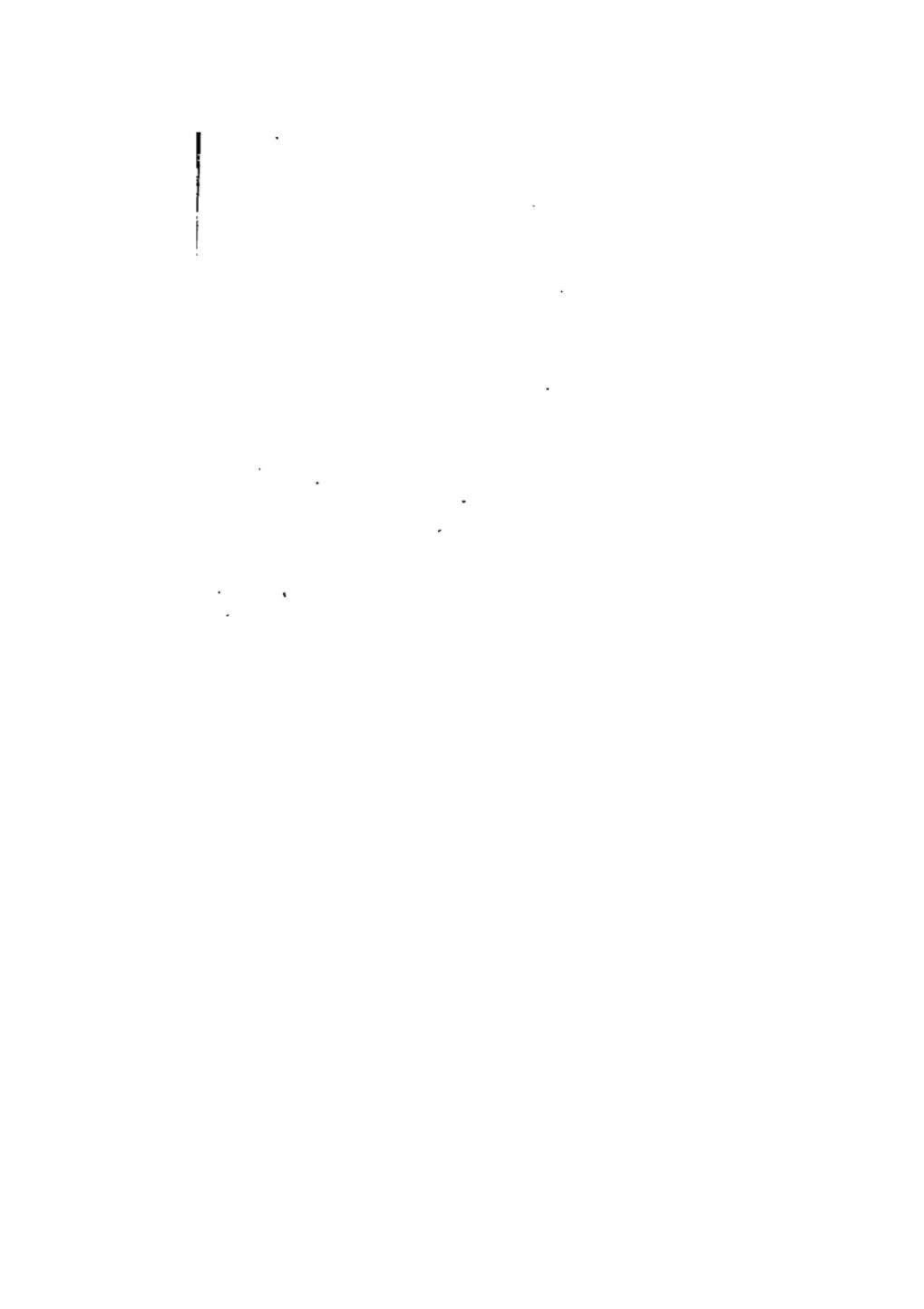
1819.

M.



THE good sense, tender affection, fortitude, and religion, of lady Russell, are eminently displayed in the following collection of Letters; to which Dr. Birch often refers, in his Life of Archbishop Tillotson, giving also two or three extracts. The letters were copied from the originals by Thomas Sellwood, who lived in her family, and dedicated them to the late duke of Bedford. His manuscript, which is in the library at Woburn Abbey, being faithfully transcribed, permission was easily obtained to publish this illustrious monument of female virtue. May the example of a lady, no less distinguished by merit than dignity, excite imitation! and may the conduct of the great be universally influenced by the maxim, "that nobility derives its brightest splendour from solid piety!"

The Letters are chiefly lady Russell's; the others are from sundry persons, and some of the highest rank, to her. There are added from Birch, a few of Archbishop Tillotson's to her ladyship, they being connected with some in this collection; these are distinguished by being placed within crotchets; and also her letter to king Charles II. after her husband's death. Notes are interspersed, to illustrate some passages of the letters, and make the readers better acquainted with the person there mentioned.



TO THE MOST NOBLE
JOHN, DUKE OF BEDFORD,
MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK,
EARL OF BEDFORD, LORD RUSSELL,
BARON RUSSELL OF THORNHAUGH, BARON HOWLAND
OF STREATHAM,
Lord Lieutenant of the County of Bedford,
And one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

May it please your Grace,
THESE are copies of my lady Russell's letters from the originals. All those to doctor Fitzwilliam, were by him returned in one packet to her ladyship, with his desire they might be printed for the benefit of the public. Those to the earl of Galway were preserved by his lordship. One to king William was found in his pocket, and those to others are minutes or copies, all of her ladyship's hand-writing. Thousands, that deserved a much better fate, are not to be recovered.

Doctor Burnet to my lady Russell, writes—" I know you act upon noble and worthy principles, and you have so strange a way of expressing yourself, that I sincerely acknowledge my pen is apt to drop out of my hand when I begin to write to you, for I am very sensible I cannot rise up to your strain," &c. Again, when bishop of Salisbury, he says—" As I have met with all the noble marks of a most obliging goodness and friendship, so no heart can possibly be fuller of a deep sense of it than mine is: and as long as I live I will reckon myself as much a property to you, as any thing can be that eats your bread; and you and yours may depend upon all that I can ever do, as much as if I were bought with your money."

hath a much more lively sense of these t
The princess of Orange says—" I an
from yours to consider God's providenc
as to make it easy."

Doctor Simon Patrick, afterward bish
" I intend to read over the same author
ship names; and if your ladyship please
your thoughts upon any passages, I sl
misers are wont to do their treasure, wl
it to all the world besides." And jud
me—" He never knew man or woman
lady Russell."

Those high testimonies, and the conse
remaining letters, which, with their exc
to posterity part of so great a character
your grace's ever to be honoured ance
nourable Rachel Lady Russell's, give
your grace will accept of, and be wel
transcript.

I am,
Your grace's most d^r
And most obe^d
THOM.

A. D. 1748.

LADY RACHEL RUSSELL'S LETTERS.

I.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.*

THOUGH I am very earnest to hear, good doctor, how my brother† is after his journey, and melancholy welcome home, yet I had not troubled you so very soon, if some discourse with lord Shaftsbury ‡

* A divine, for whom lady Russell had a great esteem and friendship; he had been chaplain to her father, as he was afterwards to the duke of York; rector of Cottenham, in Cambridgeshire, and canon of Windsor; which preferments he lost after the revolution, upon refusal of the oaths. *Birch's Life of Tillotson.*

† Lord Noel, who married lady Russell's eldest sister, and was afterwards earl of Gainsborough.

‡ Anthony Ashley Cooper, earl of Shaftsbury, who married Margaret, daughter of William lord Spencer, and Penelope Wriothesley: on being disappointed in his political schemes, he retired to Holland (though he had been a bitter enemy to that state) in November, 1682, where he languished about six weeks, surrounded with a few miserable refugees, and then gave up the ghost, January, 1688.

lose coveted and envied power,
prostitutes of ambition." Ambition was his
idol; to ambition he sacrificed all things;
him a courtier; ambition made him a patr-
on, though not after the usual form, h
Mr. Locke ascribes to him a noble saying,
not the want of knowledge, but the per-
will, that fills men's actions with folly, and
disorder." And it is greatly to be lamented
that it had probably proved but one continue-
ness and glory to himself, and had been
an uninterrupted series of services to his coun-
try, making all his powers and faculties the
sions, he was the instrument of tyranny w
of confusion when out; was ever exposed to
disappointments; and was always more or less
by his own associates. Rapin calls him
" This is the testimony equally given by
enemies."

It must be allowed, that, notwithstanding
stancy, party rage, dissimulation, and
he was one of the most able and upright
counselors in the Court of Chancery. *Six*

my brother, to adjust things as they desired ; but since he did not apply himself to do it, they hope he is satisfied how they must proceed, in order to their trust ; and telling me it was necessary they should speak with the person who managed the estate, and understood it best, I thought it fit to let my brother know it, and so if he please the same person (who I suppose to be Holloway) may bring up the papers ; and being by so safe a messenger, my brother may consider whether he will not send the original ones ; for their counsel says, they must be here, before they can do any thing effectually. But my brother will, however, think fit to keep attested copies, and hasten those he sends up as soon as possible. This is what their counsel advises upon them as necessary, and absolutely so.

My lord presents his service to my brother ; I do so too ; and heartily pray to God to comfort him in his sorrows, and direct him in all his actions.

I am, good doctor, your humble servant.

6 March, 1679-80.

My kindest service to all the dear young ones.

gether with them the command of his faculties, he drew such an argument from his own confusion, as more advantaged his cause than all the powers of eloquence could have done : " For (said he) if I, who had no personal concern in the question, was so overpowered with my own apprehensions, that I could not find words or voice to express myself, what must be the case of one whose life depended on his own abilities to defend it ? " *Ralph.* This happy turn did great service in promoting that excellent bill.

II.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

As unpleasing reports seldom miss reaching our ears, so did not that of your sickness many days before I could hear how it had pleased God to dispose of you ; which I applied myself to do (with a real concern) by my sister Allington, the best way I could think on ; and did learn from her the hopes of your recovery, which is better for us that you should abide in the flesh, though I am persuaded you might say, it had been better for you to depart, and to be with Christ ! I was glad, good doctor, to see a letter under your own hand ; but now you must suffer a little rebuke, why you would not direct it to me : I am resolved to return my thanks no other way for your fine cheeses, which are a large stock for the whole winter.

A true friend, I find, will not be discouraged, or certainly you would, from the toil of a journey to Titchfield (being weak) at this time of year. I wish it may be for the good you design, and then, I believe, your respect and kindness both for the living and the dead will leave you no room for repentance. I am doubtful if this paper will find you, and therefore shall not enlarge, but sign myself, sir, your ever faithful friend and servant.

20 Sept. 1680.

I desire your good prayers in respect to my present condition ; I now drawing near my time, looking next month.

III.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I WAS sensibly troubled, sir, at the reading your letter, to find you seized with a fresh distemper. self-interest makes me lament it, for such must the concerns of my dear sister's children ever be to me. But I can sincerely assure you, I am sorry Dr. Fitzwilliam labours under the sufferings of bodily pains; though the freeness of the mind, and the reasoning, and comfortable reflections you are able to make, are inexpressible comforts, which others want, and few can attain to. Lord grant I may obtain in the day of trial, a resigned will and a strong belief! How happy then was the day of my birth, which began that of an eternal bliss! With what joy shall we praise God for ever! And in this contemplation, how light should all worldly afflictions seem to us! But here my heart condemns me, who cannot overcome in any degree, as I ought, the late loss of my loved sister. I pray God forgive my weakness, and that it may not provoke him to try me with greater crosses. Join with me, good doctor, as also that God would assist me in my approaching time.*

My sister Allington was yesterday brought to bed of a fine boy. I wish heartily to hear you are released of your ill companion. The Jesuits' Powder

* Lady Russell, on the 1st of November, 1680, was brought to bed of a son, afterwards duke of Bedford, father of the present duke of Bedford. A.D. 1748.

is here the infallible cure, and held most safe to be taken by the best doctors.

I am, sir,

Your very faithful friend and servant.

5 Oct. 1680.

IV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letters are still the welcome messengers of good news to me, good doctor, and the good will I know you send them with, engages my receiving them the more kindly; and my best thanks are due to you for them; but where our chiefest thanks should be paid, I desire that neither myself, nor those concerned near as I was, may forget our duty. With your usual favour, oblige me by presenting my service cheerfully to my brother: I hope he still improves in his health. That they may both rejoice many years in the well-being of one another, is the earnest prayer of

Their humble servant and yours.

Tuesday Morning.

V.

TO THE KING (CHARLES II.)

Indorsed by her, " My Letter to the King a few days after my dear Lord's death."

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,
I FIND my husband's enemies are not appeased with his blood, but still continue to misrepresent him to

your majesty. 'Tis a great addition to my sorrows, to hear your majesty is prevailed upon to believe, that the paper he delivered to the sheriff at his death was not his own. I can truly say, and am ready in the solemnest manner to attest that [during his imprisonment*] I often heard him discourse the chiefest matters contained in that paper, in the same expressions he therein uses, as some of those few relations that were admitted to him, can likewise aver. And sure 'tis an argument of no great force, that there is a phrase or two in it another uses, when nothing is more common than to take up such words we like, or are accustomed to in our conversation. I beg leave further to avow to your majesty, that all that is set down in the paper read to your majesty on Sunday night, to be spoken in my presence, is exactly true ;† as I doubt not but the rest of the paper is, which was written at my request ; and the author of it in all his conversation with my husband, that I was privy to, showed himself a loyal subject to your majesty, a faithful friend to him, and a most tender and conscientious minister to his soul. . I do therefore humbly beg your majesty would be so charitable to believe, that he who in all his life was observed to act with the greatest clearness and sincerity, would not at the point of death do so disingenuous and false a thing as to deliver for his own, what was not properly and expressly so. And if, after the loss in such a man-

* The words included in the brackets are crossed out.

† It contained an account of all that passed between Dr. Burnet and his lordship, concerning his last speech and paper. It is called the "*Journal*," in the History of his own Time, vol. i. p. 562.

nor of the best husband in the world, I were capable of any consolation, your majesty only could afford it by having better thoughts of him, which when I was so importunate to speak with your majesty, I thought I had some reason to believe I should have inclined you to, not from the credit of my word, but upon the evidence of what I had to say I hope I have writ nothing in this that will displease your majesty. If I have, I humbly beg of you to consider it as coming from a woman amazed with grief; and that you will pardon the daughter of a person who served your majesty's father in his greatest extremities, [and your majesty in your greatest posts] and one that is not conscious of having ever done any thing to offend you [before] I shall ever pray for your majesty's long life and happy reign.

Who am, with all humility,

May it please your majesty, &c.

VI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I NEED not tell you, good doctor, how little capable I have been of such an exercise as this.* You will soon find how unfit I am still for it, since my yet disordered thoughts can offer me no other than such words as express the deepest sorrows, and confused, as my yet amazed mind is. But such am I as you, and particularly one so much my friend, will

* Lord Russell, her husband, was executed, or rather murdered, July 21, 1683.

I know, bear with my weakness, and compassionate my distress, as you have already done by your good letter, and excellent prayer. I endeavour to make the best use I can of both ; but I am so evil and unworthy a creature, that though I have desires, yet I have no dispositions, or worthiness, towards receiving comfort. You that knew us both, and how we lived, must allow I have just cause to bewail my loss. I know it is common with others to lose a friend ; but to have lived with such a one, it may be questioned how few can glory in the like happiness, so consequently lament the like loss. Who can but shrink at such a blow, till by the mighty aids of his holy spirit, we will let the gift of God, which he hath put into our hearts, interpose ? That reason which sets a measure to our souls in prosperity, will then suggest many things which we have seen and heard, to moderate us in such sad circumstances as mine. But, alas ! my understanding is clouded, my faith weak, sense strong, and the devil busy to fill my thoughts with false notions, difficulties, and doubts, as of a future condition* of prayer : but this I hope to make matter of humiliation, not sin. Lord, let me understand the reason of these dark and wounding providences, that I sink not under the discouragements of my own thoughts : I know I have deserved my punishment, and will be silent under it ; but yet secretly my heart mourns, too sadly I fear, and cannot be comforted, because I have not the dear companion and sharer of all my joys and sorrows. I want him to talk with, to walk with, to eat and

* Two or three words torn off.

~~Can I~~ I regret his quitting a
O ! if I did steadfastly bel-
jected ; for I will not injur-
my mind any inferior consol-
No ; I most willingly forsa-
tious, troublesome world, i-
business, but to rid my so-
faith and a good conscience
with patience and courage
fortunes, and ever hereaft
and frowns of it. And whe-
want of the work appointed
fully wait for the heavenly p-
time, when by his infinite me-
worthy to enter into the san-
pose where he is gone, for
do* fear. From th-
come my best support. C

VIL

R. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

AM,
TONIGHT ago I received a letter from your
, which by its date, the 30th of the last,
have been near the same measure of time
to me; and the reason why I deferred the
ledgment of it to this minute, was to have
time to return such an answer to it which
have been accompanied with a little treatise
o your circumstances : but the want of lei-
casioned through the destitution of a curate
ss, and the consumption of my time in cor-
several copies of a sermon sent me from
with a great many errors of the press, hath
o obstructed that design ; and I have now
e (because I will defer the cognition of your
at letter, freighted with divine thoughts, no
than will serve me barely to name the heads
se considerations, which, through God's
etting them home upon your heart, may for-
u with patience to support your condition,
as you represent it to yourself, and have
leased to do in pathetical expressions to me.
they shall have any way this operation on
r dispose you but to that, I shall, upon your
ting so much, clothe these dry bones with
nd skin, and give them some complexion,
t of all, after your use, to whom I devote
rst, if they may be made subservient to that
rs in the same or like case, make them pub-
ose, or at least some of those, I shall in-

I hope it will now --
ladyship, or at least the less pardo
I am, madam, upon the accoun
knowing in what entire friends
lord lived together, most ready
your loss of him, as well as your
him, to be very afflicting ; and
not have too deep a sense of it
from the value and estimation
have for a dear husband ; but
your thoughts may dwell too long
consolate theme, and so prejudic
and your soul, your natural life
for, as the sense is hurt with
with a vehement object, though
for example, by gazing too much
light ; so may the mind, by a
on grief, though it is delightful

these, God's grace, as you most christianly observe, powerfully steps in to correct them, by putting you upon humbling yourself for the rising, or his injection of such an impiety, and enables you to concur with that motion, in having a kind of hatred and detestation of yourself for them.

In this sense, God brings good out of evil; and, as I remember, the devout St. Austin, in his Confessions, mentions this as the benefit of sin repented of. He means, that it begets humility; and no doubt but God permits many exalted Christians, in the degrees towards perfection, to fall sometimes into some gross, scandalous sin, to abate their more dangerous spiritual pride. I do not charge such imaginations as these, when they enter into your mind, but that yields not its consent to them, as direct downright sins; nor are you, madam, to do so: but however you are to lament them as you do, as the unhappy effects of corruption, and endeavour immediately to suppress them, and reject them with disdain.

Towards getting rid of such importunate, troublesome guests, you can take no more successful method than to transfer your thoughts from the sad object which occasionally excited them, to others; as first, to the making reflection on the emptiness of the world, when most enjoyed, in one respect, that it yields no satisfaction, and its fruitfulness in another; that it produces briars and thorns without number, to scratch and tear the mind. Hereby you will gain another important advantage. Wean yourself from it; and if you are so weaned, *you may rather thank God than complain that you have been afflicted, even by the dis-*

the desire of your eyes, you ---
as you do likewise practise, to
your meditations, where faith a
can mount them ; I mean, plac-
piness above, which is perfect-
tured by the interposition of
nal, and not to be concluded b
you and *

VIII.

DR. BURNETT† TO LA

I WAS just sitting down to wr
ladyship's former letter, when
so now I have two upon me,
you will be so good as to forgi

• The remainder gone.

† After lord Russell's death, Dr.
the Second's order, discharged from
lecture at St. Clement's; and for

since the bearer is sure, I will say many things on which I would not venture by the ordinary conveyance. I must begin with your last. I see I was not mistaken in thinking, I durst venture on saying, what occurred to me on a thing which in itself was highly good and charitable, but in such an age might, as I judged, not look so well. I can truly say the vast veneration I have for your ladyship, both upon his account to whom you were so dear, and on your own, which increaseth with every letter I receive from you, makes me impatient if any thing should occur that might be matter of censure. I know you act by noble and worthy principles, and you have so strange a way of expressing yourself, that I sincerely acknowledge my pen is apt to drop out of my hand when I begin to write to you, for I am very sensible I cannot rise up to your strain. I am confident God has not bestowed such talents on you, and taken such pains, both by kind and severe providences, to distinguish you from most other women in the world, but on a design to make you an instrument of much good; and I am very glad you intend to employ so much of your own time in the education of your children, that they shall need no other governess; for, as it is the greatest part of your duty, so it will be a noble entertainment to you, and the best diversion and cure of your wounded and wasted spirits. I long so much to see your ladyship, and them about you, in this employment, that I hope you will pardon me, if I beg leave to come down and wait on you, when the master of the rolls goes out of town; for, since it was not thought fit that I should go on with the Thursday's lecture, I am master of my own time during the

more I shall say no more of
as a large part of my best t]
give you such an inward
of the wisdom and kindness
of the blessed state to wh
dearest part of yourself, an
follow in due time, that all
low up the bitter sense of t
lie under, and may possess y
solid joys that are the on
deep a wound. But I will
dismal a subject, for I am afr
on it.

Now, the business of the p
and considering how it was
dled to a very small fine, whi
was either too much or too lit
of the prosecution was to fi
the printer was tampered with
author.

I have now

till Mr. Pordage went down, and it did not then occur to my thoughts. I hope you believe I have all the just and high sense of that concern that becomes me, and would have been very little troubled, though they could have*

2 Feb. 1683—4.

IX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE received, good doctor, your friendly letter and excellent prayers, indeed, very excellent ones; and although neither could have come too soon, yet I could not wonder they staid so long. The rigour of the season has been extreme as ever was known sure in England, or in these parts of the world; but a little time of patience has carried us through all the inconveniences and hardship of it, yet not without very great and very sharp sufferings to numbers of the poorer sort; the consideration of which is a most fit contemplation for my sad thoughts, whose sufferings of another nature will have a like period; and, by faith and trust in God, a happy one, when I shall for ever (as is my hope my loved lord is now) be enabled to perform the everlasting race of obedience, which here, by reason of those strong impressions things in this life of sense make upon us, is much weakened. But I am much encouraged by your allowing that I have a just sense of sorrow, and that you saw not my mourning so much to be condemned as you appre-

* What followed is cut off.

~~and the world~~

out against such storms: but
do all things. As to the two points
doctor, insists upon, I will first say for
very confident I shall ever so take ei-
proof, caution, or advice of a friend in
ner, as I shall never lose a friend for ac-
of one to me, who shall make at least
tage by finding such, that I shall be s-
fewer deliberate follies; by sudden a-
to be guilty of many, left to the trouble-
tion of choice alone, as I must now be.
good doctor, let me engage you to
same way of proceeding; though I m-
comply with what you offer to me, y^r
best for me, if I could discern it so.
first particular concerning a chapl^r
be untractable. I told you I could
my distresses without one: for the
upon, the distance of time now be-
settled, so as to require the use of
~~the objections~~; an

as to be able to converse peaceably with such as may have freedom, in my family, though not of it, without giving offence, and I take it to be the best way of gaining good people to our opinions.

As to your kind offer of assistance, whenever cause for it, I shall ever use a freedom with you, sir; but, in a fit return, remember an old proverb, not to spur a free horse too fast. Sir, your circumstances, and my heavy ones, may most likely render that unfit; but I shall not in appearance be soon in want, seeing my removes next summer will probably be very short. For having an eye upon any particular person, I must approve, and thank you for your kindness in it; but if you have, let it be so; the person may not know it, for this reason, several that had opportunities of seeing me often in my first extremities, urged my doing what you have since done; and to them I answered as I have to you. Now, if they have been mindful of my necessities, and have any person fit to *

Woburn Abbey, 23 Feb. 1683—4.

X.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

'Tis above a fortnight, I believe, good doctor, since I received your comforting letter; and 'tis displeasing to me that I am now but sitting down to tell you so; but it is allotted to persons under my dismal title, and yet more dismal circumstances, to have additional cares, from which I am sure I

* Remainder lost.

as this I am now about; si
of those sorrows that po
refreshments, though, ala
mentary, 'tis but casting o
thoughts to compassionate
not to weep with those th
such discourses and advices
me with, which I hope yo
more than once; and if I
upon this earth, I mean to c
fess, of all those have been
charity has been most about
in all particulars more sui
deal with me, sir, just as I
and 'tis possible I feel the
raging griefs, because I wou
but upon fit considerations
natures to have our sore h
handled; yet, as most prof
nay desire, to have mine sea

the best advices, and use all methods to obtain such a relief, as I can ever hope for, a silent submission to this severe and terrible providence, without any ineffective unwillingness to bear what I must suffer; and such a victory over myself, that, when once allayed, immoderate passions may not be apt to break out again upon fresh occasions and accidents, offering to my memory that dear object of my desires, which must happen every day, I may say every hour, of the longest life I can live; that so, when I must return into the world, so far as to act that part is incumbent upon me in faithfulness to him I owe as much as can be due to man, it may be with great strength of spirits, and grace to live a stricter life of holiness to my God, who will not always let me cry to him in vain. On him I will wait, till he have pity on me, humbly imploring, that by the mighty aids of his most holy spirit, he will touch my heart with greater love to himself. Then I shall be what he would have me. But I am unworthy of such a spiritual blessing, who remain so unthankful a creature for those earthly ones I have enjoyed, because I have them no longer. Yet God, who knows our frames, will not expect that when we are weak we should be strong. This is much comfort under my deep dejections, which are surely increased by the subtle malice of that great enemy of souls, taking all advantages upon my present weakened and wasted spirits, assaulting with divers temptations, as, when I have in any measure overcome one kind, I find another in the room, as when I am less afflicted (as I before complained,) then I find reflections troubling me, as omissions of some sort or other; that

appointed, beyond which we c
shrinks to think his time possi
unwise management. I believe
myself with such unprofitable

XI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM

BELIEVE me, good doctor, I find
reading your short letter of 8th
but newly received,) before I
of the 11th March. I have s
pen in my hand to do it, and
dispatching less pleasing dispa
time was spent before I came
fore I laid away the pen.

The future part of my life v
as perhaps I would just cho
long enough gratified; indeed

at those which are not seen, expecting that day which will settle and compose all my tumultuous thoughts in perpetual peace and quiet; but am undone, irrecoverably so, as to my temporal longings and concerns. Time runs on, and usually wears off some of that sharpness of thought inseparable with my circumstances, but I cannot experience such an effect, every week making me more and more sensible of the miserable change in my condition; but the same merciful hand which has held me up from sinking in the extremest calamities, will (I verily believe) do so still, that I faint not to the end in this sharp conflict, nor add sin to my grievous weight of sorrows, by too high a discontent, which is all I have now to fear. You do, I doubt not, observe I let my pen run too greedily upon this subject: indeed 'tis very hard upon me to restrain it, especially to such as pity my distress, and would assist towards my relief any way in their power. I am glad I have so expressed myself to you, as to fix you in resolving to continue the course you have begun with me, which is to set before me plainly my duty in all kinds: 'twas my design to engage you to it; nor shall you be less successful with me, in your desires, could there happen occasion for it, which is most unlikely, doctor Fitzwilliam understanding himself and the world so well. On neither of the points, I believe, I shall give you reason to complain, yet please myself in both, so far of one mind we shall be.

I am entertaining some thoughts of going to that now desolate place Stratton, for a few days, where I must expect new amazing reflections at first, it being a place where I have lived in sweet and full

content; considered the condition of others, and thought none deserved my envy: but I must pass no more such days on earth; however, places are indeed nothing. Where can I dwell that his figure is not present to me? Nor would I have it otherwise; so I resolve that shall be no bar, if it proves requisite for the better acquitting any obligation upon me. That which is the immediate one, is settling, and indeed giving up the trust, my dear lord had from my best sister.* Fain would I see that performed, as I know he would have done it had he lived. If I find I can do as I desire in it, I will (by God's permission) infallibly go; but indeed not to stay more than two or three weeks, my children remaining here, who shall ever have my diligent attendance; therefore shall hasten back to them.

I do not admit one thought of accepting your kind and religious offer, knowing it is not proper. I take; if I do go, my sister Margaret, and believe lady Shaftesbury will meet me there. This I choose, as thinking some persons being there to whom I would observe some rules, will engage me to restrain myself, or keep in better bounds my wild and sad thoughts. This is all I can do for myself. But blessed by the good prayers of others for me, they will, I hope, help me forward towards the great end of our creation.

I am, most cordially, good doctor,
Your ever mournful, but
Ever faithful friend, to serve you.

I hear my lord Gainsborough and my lady will

* Elizabeth Wriothesley, afterwards Noel.

rly at Chilten. She is one I do truly regret; I can never regret being near her, though my sign is to converse with none but lawyers and tants.

in Abbey, 20 April, 1684.

XII.

R. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

resolution I long expected, I found by a letter which came to my hands on the 3d ; for it relieved me of all my little fears, lest sedom or confidence I took in debating two, in which I differed from your honour, might unaffected you (little I call them, because I eat hopes that your goodness was such as not be distasted easily by any errors of mine tted through imprudence, which otherwise with such a mixture would have operated a leal of trouble and affliction,) and cured my unness, that at least if it had not offended was because it had unhappily taken another than it was directed, and so miscarried on the way. And since you accepted, with ch benignity and candoer, my liberty in urging on those particulars, I am abundantly satisfied you see stronger and more cogent reasons age your dissent, than those I offered to gain concurrence with my judgment, or rather opinion on them. And more, I ought to be, if there room for that more, since you profess your sions to make such a temperament as, though lot a compliance with what I thought might

be no imprudent or wrong advice to one in circumstances, yet will not be an utter reject it. But although this be a satisfaction abund to content me, yet the pleasure which another of your letter gave me was of a finer and n kind, or at least transcending it in degree, wh you gave me more than an intimation, that should offend (in doing that which you excit to do, and tell me it was your primary intent should) either by not considering your conditic my own, which it is more than probable I may will frankly reprove me for any mistake suc inadvertency may make me guilty of. The descending to take this pains with me, who not be incorrigible under your rebukes or ins tions, as it is that for which I esteem myself ob to render your ladyship all real humble th so it will be the chief motive to animate me to cceed as I have begun, and as you desired I sI continue.

I do believe most easily (and should without declaration have guessed,) when you come to Str whither business sèems rather to summon you, your own inclinations to carry you, your grief be apt to renew itself, that the very place v you have so often enjoyed your lord, envyin greater happiness of none while you possessed will refresh this image of him (who is so p tually in your thoughts and memory now) on imagination then; and the destitution of hi self, will, when you reflect that all the fruitio have left of him, is merely his figure in your f cause a stronger sense of your loss, than you constantly at Woburn, where he and you

not so much conversant as at Stratton; so too, a sharper fit of grief than you there feel.

But this is that against which you are to oppose your whole self; and, as I remember I directed you, you are not to permit your thoughts to dwell on the object God hath removed from you, nor permit them perpetually to compare your present sad condition with your former pleasing one, in that place; for, if you do, you will not act according to your professions, much less your duty, in striving against immoderate sorrow; but you lay yourself down under it. And you may as reasonably suppose my thoughts can be fixed on a foul object, and I not corrupted, as that yours can be employed on your lord, and the sweet contentment of enjoying him there, and yet not be saddened to a degree of sin.

You are therefore, madam, to divert your thoughts to another kind of reflection, and consider, not so much what God hath taken from you lately at Stratton, as what he has left you still untouched at Woburn. And that if you grieve too much for the one (for I will not think you repine,) you may provoke him to increase the troubled stream with plenteousness of tears, by re-seizing into his own hands some parcel of that happiness which he is yet pleased to continue to you in yours there.

Madam, you are to meditate on this, that though you cannot enjoy your lord at Stratton, yet you may, unless it be your own fault, your God there. And you are to labour, from such meditations, to say truly with your heart, How amiable and delightful is this place, where He, who is infinitely more valuable to me than the person he gave me, and hath

taken away hence, and in whom that person was or ought only to have been dear to me, and this place grateful ; the God of all love, and all beauty and perfection, will choose to cohabit with me as a husband, unless I refuse the condescension ; and to abide with me as a comforter, unless I reject the offer, and obstinately deny to be comforted !

You are to bring yourself by such contemplation to this pitch, as to say most sincerely, what I believe you say constantly ; Thy will be done, my God and Father ! Though I could have been pleased to have enjoyed the harmless delights of this place in fellowship with the man thou gavest me, yet I am fully content, seeing it hath been thy pleasure, always directed with wisdom, and tempered with goodness, to demand him from me, to enjoy thee by communication with thee in my thoughts, and aspirations after thee in my desires. Seeing the one was thy will by thy dispensations to him, and the other was thy will in thy creating and redeeming me, this shall be my will too ; and by this identity of will I will be united to thee, from whose love no tribulation nor distress can separate me ; my own voluntary sins alone can divide me.

I beseech God to give a blessing to these hasty prescriptions (for the carrying away of which to the post the messenger stays) that they may conduce to the doing you that good they are designed for.

I am abruptly, but yet inviolably, madam,
Your honour's entirely devoted servant.

Cottingham, 7 May, 1684.

XIII.

DR. SIMON PATRICK TO LADY RUSSELL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LADYSHIP,

I RECEIVED your letter of the 11th instant, and give you my late but most humble thanks, for taking in so good part that poor tender of my duty and service, which in the sincerity of my heart I made to your ladyship ; and though I now find that there was no occasion at all for it, yet I cannot be sorry for my mistake, since I enjoy the benefit of it, in reading a letter which is so well stored with devout and heavenly thoughts.

I cannot read without rejoicing, your ladyship's submission to the divine Providence, in resolving all to this, That whatever you find, will be best, and any thing you could imagine would have been worse ; nor without begging of God, in the words of David, 1 Chron. xxix. 18, to keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of your heart. For, as your ladyship cannot have a more honourable and worthy, and just opinion of God, than to believe that all He does is for the best, so neither can you entertain a thought which tends more to your own ease and satisfaction ; for it is indeed the very secret of contentment. And sure there cannot be a more reasonable thing in the world, than to think well of what God does, and to allow him, who is the fountain of love and goodness, as well as of wisdom and understanding, to choose better and wiselier for us than we possibly can for ourselves. It is true that some particular providences

that that very ship was cast :
sengers in it. In like manne
zled in beholding the frame :
visible world ; for many thing
appearance seem to be blemi
yet, upon further examinatio
very useful and beneficial, th
bear testimony to that divine
once pronounced them to be
so I doubt not, but by a dilig
may give ourselves a very good
as well as of the works of G
advantages and gracious passag
as may force us to acknowledg
have been so well without t
that He of very faithfulness
troubled. And as such sensit
acknowledgments must needs !
because thereby we honour]
of Him of our own knowled

men themselves think fit to practise in other matters: for who will sell the reversion of a great estate for a present penny? or who, on the other hand, will not disburse his ready money for some very gainful improvement of it hereafter? And yet there is some proportion in these things, for the most gainful improvement is but the same money multiplied over again, and the greatest estate is but a penny so many times told; whereas an eternal happiness, and this transitory world's false joys, hold no proportion.

I intend to read over the same authors which your ladyship names, and if your ladyship pleases to impart some of your thoughts upon any passages in them, I shall value them as misers are wont to do their treasure, who envy sight of it to all the world besides. Your ladyship's discourse upon occasion of my lady* Bedford's death I understand as an instance of your preparation of mind, and readiness to be dissolved, to be with Christ, which is certainly best for you whenever He pleases. But the continuance of your ladyship's life and health, if God see it good, is so absolutely necessary to the support of your noble family, that I hope they will be prolonged, and for the sake of your children ought not to be shortened, so much as by an otherwise innocent wish. My master's education parti-

* Anne countess of Bedford, daughter of Robert earl of Somerset, by Frances, daughter of Thomas Howard, earl of Suffolk, whom he married after she was divorced from the earl of Essex. Francis earl of Bedford, gave his son leave and liberty to choose in any family but that: king Charles I. sent the duke of Lennox to move him to give way to it, and he was prevailed on to consent.—*Biog. Brit.*

say, that your ladyship ought
inward testimony of your
discouraged at any weakne
attend it, for that outweig
beg your ladyship to present
vice to my good lord of Bed
have written upon this occasi
that it had been proper for
not rather have renewed his
to accept of my hearty tha
goodness towards me, who a

Your ladyship's most hu
And most obed

May, 1684.

XIV.

TO DR. FITZW

I HAVE received yours, good

me to this day, that I ever need such instructions, as shall help to wean me from binding up my life and content in them, though in the best of creatures in their best estate: and very perverse it is in me towards my heavenly Father, if I do secretly repine at his dispensing to me, that which my corrupt nature makes so necessary for me; but it must be his free effectual grace that must perfect the work. He has called me to different encounters, and thereby invites me to stir up that grace He has put into my heart, and known to be so, by him, though not by myself, or I should not be so tried; that Power who permits, if not appoints what I endure, having said, we shall not be tempted above what we are able to bear. He has been pitiful to my small grace, and removed a threatened blow, which must have quickened my sorrows, if not added to them, the loss of my poor boy. He has been ill, and God has let me see the folly of my imaginations, which made me apt to conclude I had nothing left, the deprivation of which could be matter of much anguish, or its possession of any considerable refreshment. I have felt the falseness of the first notion, for I know not how to part, with tolerable ease, from the little creature. I desire to do so of the second, and that my thankfulness for the real blessing of these children may refresh my labouring weary mind with some joy and satisfaction, at least in my endeavours to do that part towards them, their most dear and tender father would not have omitted; and which, if successful, though early made unfortunate, may conduce to their happiness for the time to come here and hereafter. When I have done this piece of duty to my

living among the dead ; I kn
him any more wherever I we
covenant with myself, not to
sonable fruitless passion, but
plation whither the nobler part
try afar off, where no earthly p
nor can put an end to a ha
would willingly be, but we mus
I hope to wait without impatie

As to the information you
my power to be punctual. I
chief business is my attendanc
that is, their persons ; and, til
strength, I dare not leave him,
fortnight. I had fixed on th
from that time to this, good
been in a constant expectation
meet me there ; but lady Bedf
the child, has kept me yet in
three teeth to cut, and till t

gaged (as finding it almost necessary) to my affairs, one Mr. Hoskins; I grew first acquainted with him at lord Shaftsbury's, who used to call him cousin; he is a very worthy and ingenious man. Now he uses to drink Tunbridge waters, therefore I have sent to him if he chooses to do so, not to alter his course, for I can defer, as I have done, till he has performed it. So you see my uncertainties, but as soon as I am fixed you shall be sure to know it, as hastily as I can send the notice. Being more certain of the other proposition you offer me concerning a charity, what I will do in it, I answer to it more positively, Yes, I will, sir.

If you hear how Watkins has provided for himself, you will be satisfied I have not been injurious to him at all; I am within a few days made acquainted he goes to lord Campden. He has given me notice a good while, that at Midsummer I should be provided, but really I did not guess where; he did not want my assistance to recommend him, and it seems lord Campden was disposed it should be a secret, and so it was to me. I take it not ill from him, because I suppose he is not acquainted with the usual way of respectful proceeding in such cases. I wish, if he means to govern himself in so close a way, that he does no worse in greater matters, for I believe he will be an honest servant.

I have made this letter so long, it is high time to break off, but first I must recommend my wants to your retirements, more than ordinary at the return of that time of year my miserable days had a beginning; which, though I suffer to slide away as easily as I can, yet I mistrust I shall not be able

Lady Northampton writes me to Chilten ; it seems they have my lady Gainsborough's great god have great skill to make Chilten

XV.

TO DR. FITZWILI

THE last letter I writ to you, go the 21st July ; and I find yours I conclude you had not read mine yours is the kinder, since I find a memory of that return of time this sad and dismal year began I could not pass but with some solemnity ; yet I hope I took time to convert my anguish into a diversion from my thoughts those tions they would raise (at such t

my boy, at present, with the care of his sister, the only worldly business I have in this perishing world.* You hear I am at Totteridge, and why I came thither, and soon will know I wanted the auxiliaries you took care to send me: sure I did so; but it hath pleased the Author of all Mercies to give me some glimpse and ray of his compassions in this dark day of my calamity, the child being exceedingly better; and I trust no secret murmur or discontent at what I have felt, and must still do, shall provoke my God to repeat those threatenings of making yet more bitter that cup I have drank so deeply out of; but as a quiet submission is required under all the various methods of Divine Providence, I trust I shall be so supported, that though unfit thoughts may haunt me, they shall not break in importunately upon me, nor will I break off that bandage time will lay over my wound. To them that seek the Lord, his mercies are renewed every morning: with all my strength to him I will seek; and though he kill me I will trust in him; my hopes are not of this world; I can never more recover pleasure here; but more durable joys I shall obtain, if I persevere to the end of a short life.

I do congratulate your expectations, they being sure well grounded; but I wonder a little you should hesitate whether or no to be hovering thereabouts till the issue is ascertained. If you do not, I hope you will not balk Totteridge if I am here, which I do not intend a day longer than the doctor thinks it best. He is not averse to giving him a

* Lady Russell's children were Wriothesley, Rachel, and Catherine.

fit I should be there) that . . .
shall let it alone. If I go at all, it m
when I see the doctor next, I w
wherever I am, and in all conditio
tinue, good doctor,
Your affectionate friend

3d August, 1684.

I conclude the good bishop is
say nothing to the contrary. I a

XVI.

DR. FITZWILLIAM TO L

RETURNING homewards on th
Albans, I apprehended myself t
I could imagine I should be, i
for a minute or two with an o
to Totteridge, and t

At my arrival here, I found a letter had been lodged for me, wrote by your ladyship on that day from which you date the beginning of your sorrows, and reckon a new epocha of a sad miserable life. I agree with you, as you judge according to the sight of your eyes, and consulting nature, that it was so, because it deprived you of the enjoyment of him whom you prized above, and in whose fellowship you tasted a sweet beyond what any sublunary things, or all of them together could yield you. But then if you will estimate that day as a Christian, whose life here is by faith, and who looks for a life of glory, I may venture to say you cannot but esteem it as a happy day, even to yourself: while depriving you of the greatest worldly comfort, it gave the occasion to you of abstracting your heart from the world, whose fashion passeth away; or weaning your affections from things below, and of attracting the one and raising the other to the place where they ought to be; in short, of bringing you nearer towards your God, and uniting you more closely to him, (the very contemplation of whom affords transcendently all the delight it was possible for you to relish in a husband,) and how much infinitely more will the vision and fruition of him exceed them! This you would have otherwise been without that day's providential dispensation. A sore one indeed, and such as I could wish its sense were to be mitigated in you, by my own sharing in part of your grief; but, may be, no less mild a method was necessary for the work; and there is no doubt but the great Physician of Souls saw that so rough a medicine was necessary for the cure of that com-

bear using ...
serve it for what I promised, as
your benefit, could I find leisure to
it, as it ought to be, into severa
can be fit to be presented to you: &
be more agreeable to your inclin
my function, that I should pray th
only comfort you, but illuminate y
discerning eye, whereby you may
been good for you even to have b
afflicted, and that he hath been
sharply dealing with you.

I understood by this your conc
signified too before with the req
employment of some part of yo
the assisting in the instruction
dren in my parish, and your pl
assign the place where it should
as I return you all thanks, so I
dispensing it may be a laying v
eare in heaven. And since y
..... the sm

St. Paul's church-yard, near Ludgate. I beseech Almighty God, who hath overcast all your earthly content with so black a cloud as you seem to say, to lift up the light of his countenance, and cause his face to shine upon you, and to support you with his everlasting favour, and to bless you here, if it seem good to his wisdom, by continuing to you the temporal blessings he yet indulgeth you; and thus praying, am,

Madam, your honour's most humbly,
And compassionately devoted servant.

Cotenharn, 19th Aug. 1684.

XVII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

At my return from Totteridge, I did resolve one of my first exercises of this nature should be to you; why it was not so, Mr. Taylor might have told you; I desired he would: 'twas his coming to you: and I judged the entertainment of him would be a better diversion to you, than a letter from me; so I deferred it till his return. Whether the report you had, just-at parting from him, of the good bishop of Winchester's * probably hastening to the end of his race, which, without doubt, he will finish with joy, has called you sooner from your habitation than you meant, I know not: it may make this matter the shorter, but not prevent my best thanks offered

* Morley, bishop of Winchester, died 1684. A very eminent man, zealous against popery, with a considerable share of learning, and great vivacity of thought.—*Burnet.*

for yours of 13th August, and for a member, the 3d also ; but if the last ledged before, I am in no error to yours all merit, every one of them, the ment of my whole life. As they help fortably away sad hours, so I persuad consequence will be profitable through how long soever the Disposer of all t it to last ; that it will have an end, e sents us a convincing argument, by some acquaintance very often, if not a what the raging war devours is ma meditation, and more amazing than I of in this paper. But to me death h near as to fetch a portion from my ve by it calls on me to prepare against death, from which, by the merits of merciful Redeemer, I hope my best livered ; and having a reasonable gr hope, it is unaccountable why I must what I valued as my own soul, is past culties of this narrow passage.

I find you have submitted to great : the deprivation of a very dear friend are more a conqueror than I, in the lit out of such depressions as my weak na fered itself to be plunged into ; but w made to be strong alike, and I one of th God's creatures every way ; yet it is his g I should be singled out in a calamity. do is to suffer his good and holy will, a exalted in due time, though not as J divine comfort here, and joy hereaf grateful to my afflicted mind to run on

I am free, that I doubt I give you true cause to wish I would use you less like a friend. I am sure I intended nothing like this when I took my pen to write, but in a short letter to acquaint you with what I have not yet touched on—my resolve to try that desolate habitation of mine at London this winter. The doctor agrees it is the best place for my boy, and I have no argument to balance that, nor could take the resolution to see London till that was urged ; but by God's permission I will try how I can endure that place, in thought a place of terror to me : but I know if sorrow had not another root, that will vanish in a few days. Now, doctor, as soon as I had formed, or rather submitted to this advice, which was but just as I left Totteridge, (for I hastened hither upon it, that lord Bedford might have some weeks of comfort in the child before I took him from him) I took into my thought how the chapel should be supplied—so short a warning as I had given myself could never secure my being supplied as I desire ; and I considered one of your order is not to be used as other domestics, so that if unhappily I should have entertained one not agreeable to me, it would have been hard to have relieved myself ; so I lighted on this expedient :—To invite an old acquaintance of yours to pass this winter with me, and if her husband, Mr. Hanbury, could dispense for some weeks with officiating himself at Botley, I would be willing he should supply my chapel ; being at present unprovided : so I give myself this approaching winter to fix. I am sure he is conforming enough, and it will not be difficult to any if willing, to act that prudent part I formerly hinted, and at which you seemed

almost to have some objections against ; but I leave that for a discourse. I do not purpose a removal till the end of this month, if the child continues so very well as he is, and the weather be tolerable. My lord Gainsborough and my lady have invited themselves to great honours from the court. My lady writes me word, the charge seems to fright my lord (at present) against another year. I admire her conduct to manage all that company at Chilten. I hear my lady Digby * is safely laid of a girl ; the sex can be no disappointment to them, likely to have so many. I hope they are a very happy couple ; then, I believe, she does not regret the opportunity of being made a courtier.

The constant uneasy hurry I was in at Totteridge (which a little matter is cause of to so broken a mind as mine) made me forget to send the money for your poor children as I appointed ; and since it is so, unless you order other, I will now delay the doing it till we meet, or I hear you are at London. In all places I am, good doctor, your assured friend to serve you under all my sadness.

1st Oct. 1684.

XVIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE very lately received one of yours from London, and had one also from Cotenham since I wrote ; but I had measured your time to be at London so

* Frances, eldest daughter of Edward Noel, earl of Gainsborough, married to Simon lord Digby.

near, that I would not send a sad dull paper to wander up and down, as some did when you was at Farnham with the good bishop, whose present state you do in such a manner describe, as makes me feel at the reading, (though it is not the first time neither) a lightsomeness I am not used to, and by a kind of reflex-act make it my own in prospect. The consideration of the other world is not only a very great, but (in my small judgment) the only support under the greatest of afflictions that can befall us here ; the enlivening heat of those glories are sufficient to animate and refresh us in our dark passage through this world ; and though I am below the meanest of God's servants that have not in the least degree lived answerable to those opportunities I have had, yet my Mediator is my judge, and he will not despise weak beginnings, though there be more smoke than flame. He will help us in believing ; and though he suffers us to be cast down, will not cast those off who comunit their cause to him.

I have, you find, sir, lingered out my time here ; and I think none will wonder at it, that will reflect the place I am going to remove to was the scene of so much lasting sorrow to me, and where I acted so unsuccessful a part for the preservation of a life, I could sure have laid down mine to have had continued. It was, doctor, an inestimable treasure I did lose, and with whom I had lived in the highest pitch of this world's felicity. But I must remember I have a better friend, a more abiding, whom I desire with an inflamed heart to know, not alone as good in a way of profit, but amiable in a way of excellency ; then, spiritual joy will grapple with earthly griefs, and so far overcome as to give some

To one so lately arrived
as I know you to be, I am
desires always to approve h
Your faithf

Weburn Abbey, 17th Nov. 1

XIX

TO DR. FITZ

You pursue, good doctor,
comfort to my afflicted m
me to think the better o
temper of mind you judge
you so kindly gave me a w
doh. You are highly in
sense as sharpness on the
on the other, can cause, I
I believe, to the end of my
tunate in the close of it.

is my loved lord is one ; and my often repeated prayer to my God is, that if I have a reasonable ground for that hope, it may give a refreshment to my poor soul.

Do not press yourself, sir, too greatly in seeking my advantage ; but when your papers do come, I expect and hope they will prove such. The accidents of every day tell us of what a tottering clay our bodies are made. Youth nor beauty, greatness nor wealth, can prop it up. If it could, the lady Ossory had not so early left this world ; she died (as an express acquainted her father this morning) on Sunday last, of a flux and miscarrying. I heard also this day of a kinsman that is gone ; a few years ago I should have had a more concerned sense for sir Thomas Vernon ;* his unfitness (as I doubt) I do lament indeed.

Thus I treat you, as I am myself, with objects of mortification ; but you want none such in your so-

* Sir Thomas Vernon, on the jury against sir Samuel Bernardiston, knighted for his service in it, and then made foreman to convict Oates of perjury. Sir Samuel Barnardiston, 14th Feb. 1683-4, was fined 10,000*l.* for writing some letters, in which he used these expressions (*inter alia*) : "The lord Howard appears despicable in the eyes of all men—the brave lord Russell is afresh lamented—It is generally said the earl of Essex was murdered—the plot is lost here—the duke of Monmouth said publicly, that he knew my lord Russell was as loyal a subject as any in England, and that his majesty believed the same now—the printer of the late lord Russell's speech was passed over with silence—the sham protestant plot is quite lost and confounded," &c. He was committed for his fine to the King's Bench, continued prisoner four or five years, and great waste and destruction made on his estate.—*Display of Tyranny.*

litude, and I being unprovided of other, w
you to your own thoughts, and ever contin
Sir, your obliged se

31st Jan. 1684—5.

My neighbours and tenants are under a
tress, being questioned about accounts, and
leaves found torn out of the books; so th
dome and Trant offered 40,000/. for ato
but having confessed two more were privy
cutting out leaves, the king will have th
covered. Till Monday they have time give
You had given lady Julian one of those boo

XX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I RECEIVED your letter and papers enclose
desire, good doctor, you would receive my
for both, in particular that part concerns
mediate wants; and for the other you wo
me the first sight of, and then the office of
ing it to others; which I did faithfully
directed, and could not but receive an equa
bation. As you are kind in believing what t
I had entertained of you, so I assure you,
but just in it. And I wish from my soul I r
as steadfast to the truth, as I believe you i
do; and as I doubt not that your strength
so pray mine may be as firm under all ti
heavenly Father may permit us to fall, but
under I trust. Man passeth away, but the
God endureth for ever. The saddest state t

soul will one day end in rest. This is my best comfort, and a greater we cannot have ; yet the degree is raised, when we consider we shall not only rest, but live in regions of unspeakable bliss. This should lead us sweetly through the dark passage of the world, and suffer us to start at nothing we either meet, or our fears suggest may happen to us. I am sorry my sister Allington will not dispose herself to receive your compassionate visit. Pray God comfort her with his spirit working in her heart, that she may evidence to her soul she is bettered by affliction. After the first changes following our great one, all is silent ; your friends are the rising men ; lord Ormond intends to be at sea by 10th March, but who goes I hear not. It is now in justices' hands, the chancellor and a lord Granard.* Lord Campden is gone this day to Hampshire. Most are moving about elections. God direct the spirits of all men in so difficult a time as this. My lord Gainsborough told me to-day he is bespoke to give lady Mary Compton in marriage to the lord Dorset, and about ten days hence he goes to Titchfield. His son will be house-keeper, he says, which I was sorry to hear, but I must submit to sorrows of all degrees, with as much of that excellent virtue of patience you recommend, and with so pious a zeal, as I can attain, who am,

Doctor, very sincerely,

Your friend and servant.

* James Butler, duke of Ormond ; James Forbes, earl of Granard.

XXI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR conversation, good doctor, is both so instructive and so friendly, that I love to take it all the ways I can, and had before this begun to invite you to such an one as is to be had at this distance; but my own sad affairs have pressed me more than ordinary, since I saw you, in a particular I cannot relate by letter; and I more easily dispense with letters, knowing that when leisure permits you, you are writing for my good and advantage in particular, and perhaps for all that can read in general, if you please to give them opportunity, by making public what you first, I believe, designed for private use. Thoughts so digested, it is pity should be obscure, since the subject matter is the exercise of every day, or should be; life being a continued succession of many provocations to great vexation of spirit, till we have grace to remember who is the great Governor of all things.

My cousin Cholmondeley died on Sunday, the last child of a couple I loved and valued much. Thus it pleases God I shall outlive one generation after another; but he has wise ends in all his providences, though hid to us in this life.

The parliament met and chose sir John Trevor speaker, and so adjourned till Friday; then it is expected the king will speak; in the mean time I will leave you to the enclosed papers, and ever continue very faithfully, doctor Fitzwilliam's friend and servant.

20th May, 1685.

Mr. Ireton is escaped out of prison. Several about the city are clapped up, as one Mr. Freak Bateman, a surgeon ;* I cannot hit the names of the rest. Mr. Charlton has been asked for at his house, but was not at home.

XXII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

NEVER shall I, good doctor, I hope, forget your work (as I may term it) of labour and love : so instructive and comfortable do I find it, that at any time, when I have read any of your papers, I feel a heat within me to be repeating my thanks to you anew, which is all I can do towards the discharge of a debt you have engaged me in ; and though nobody loves more than I to stand free from engagements I cannot answer, yet I do not wish for it here ; I would have it as it is ; and although I have the present advantage, you will have the future reward ; and if I can truly reap what I know you design me by it, a religious and quiet submission to all providences, I am assured you will esteem to we attained it here in some measure. Never could

* Charles Bateman, a surgeon, accused of seditious disorders ; but many believed his chief crime consisted in his passion to Titus Oates, having constantly attended him in his cruel scourgings, and used all his skill to cure his wounds. This man, who did not expect to be accused, grew fat during his imprisonment, and the court was so satisfied of it, that his son was permitted to make hisroe for him. But this condition did not prevent his condemnation, and he was executed 18th December,
—Rapin.

which I have never .
determined what fell out a week after,
given me so long and so bitter a time
But God has a compass in his providence
out of our reach ; and as he is all good
that consideration should in reason
fierce rages of grief. But sure, doctor,
ture of sorrow to lay hold on all things
a new ferment to it : then how could I
feel it in a time of so much confusion
weeks have been, closing so tragically
done ; and sure never any poor creature
whole years together, has had more
quicken and revive the anguish of it
have had ; yet I hope I do most truly
nothing may be so bitter to me, as to
have in the least offended thee, O
that nothing may be so marvellous in
exceeding love of my Lord Jesus ; th
. my aim, and the longing expectation
-- through honour and dishonour

arning to see my uncle Ruvigny here, who
to me; so I know not how to quit my house.
ave received him, at least into it; he is upon
iracy.

lady Gainsborough came to this town last
and I doubt found neither her own daughter
ly Jane in a good condition of health. I had
i a surgeon on the day before to let my niece
by Dr. Loure's direction, who could not at-
by reason my lord Radnor lay in extremity,
was last night past hopes. My niece's con-
is a neglected cold, and he fears her to be
king hectic, but I hope youth will struggle
ercome; they are children whose least con-
touch me to the quick; their mother was a
us friend: sure nobody has enjoyed more
re in the conversations and tender kindnesses
usband and a sister than myself, yet how apt
o be fretful that I must not still do so! but I
ollow that which seems to be the will of God,
nacceptable soever it may be to me. I must
for if I let my pen run on, I know not where
end.

I am, good doctor,
With great faithfulness,
Your affectionate friend to serve you.

Nampton-house, 17th July, 1685.

XXIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

annet make so great a mistake, good doctor,
v, as not to be assured I accept most kindly

per by var...
foolishly as to say they are not
discern so justly as to know you do no
in the manner of magnifying your
spect, nor in the design nor prosecuti
virtue you chiefly recommend to p
beautifully set forth, it is as a burning
and one is willing to live with that li
languishing weary spirit rises up slowl
yet I hope, by God's abundant grace,
labours will work the same effect in m
will indeed in less time on others
and prepared than I am, who in the
seem to have no remembrance, with
ness of prosperity. Your papers
rarely fitted for the use of all at
the burthen of sin or sorrow, thou
and particular charity composed for
calamity, and as seasonably is this
as is possible, for its first perusal
unsealed your packet this very n
..... indeed

the grace I sometimes feel, though faint are my best thoughts and performances, as I am sensible.

So willing I am to hearken to arguments of consolation, and so convinced that yours are strong, that though the phrase seemed odd I read in your letter, that you would try to draw comfort to me from the cause of my sorrow, and administer it from the very calamity I feel ; yet I did with much eagerness read on, and must acquiesce in much of it with you. You imagine that these late confusions have afforded matter of tumultuous devouring thoughts, and though not so well digested as they are in your letter, yet every clause in it I have tossed up and down.

And now, doctor, I take this late wild attempt *

* Duke of Monmouth's rebellion. He was son to king Charles II. by Lucy Barlow, alias Walters. In his declaration against king James II. among other things, he accuses him of the barbarous murder of Arthur earl of Essex in the Tower, and of several others to conceal it ; of the most unjust condemnation of William lord Russell and colonel Algernon Sidney, being only accused for meeting, in discharge of their duty to God and their country, to consult of extraordinary yet lawful means, to rescue our religion and liberties from the hands of violence, when all ordinary means according to the laws were denied and obstructed.—Concluding, “ And we do appeal unto the great God concerning the justice of our cause, and implore his aid and assistance, that he would enable us to go forth in his name, and to do valiantly against his and our enemies ; for he it is that knows we have not chosen to engage in arms for private and corrupt ends or designs, but out of a deep sense of our duty. We therefore commit our cause unto him, who is the Lord of hosts and the God of battles.” He was taken, tried, and on the 15th July, 1685, beheaded.—*Ralph*. His children were named Scott, he having married lady Ann Scott, daughter of Francis earl of Buccleugh.

to be a new project, not depending on, or being linked in the least to any former design, if there was then any real one, which I am satisfied was not no more than (my own lord confessed) talk. And it is possible that talk going so far as to consider, if a remedy to supposed evils might be sought, how it could be found? but as I was saying, if all this late attempt was entirely new, yet the suspicion my lord must have lain under would have been great; and some other circumstances I do confess must have made his part a hard one: so that from the deceitfulness of the heart, or want of true sight in the directive faculty, what would have followed God only knows. From the frailty of the will I should have feared but little evil; for he had so just a soul, so firm, so good, he could not warp from such principles that were so, unless misguided by his understanding, and that his own, not another's; for I dare say, as he could discern, he never went into any thing considerable, upon the mere submission to any one's particular judgment. Now his own, I know, he could never have framed to have thought well of the late actions, and therefore most probably must have sat loose from them. But I am afraid his excellent heart, had he lived, would have been often pierced from the time his life was taken away to this. On the other hand, having, I trust, a reasonable ground of hope, he has found those mercies he died with a cheerful persuasian he should, there is no reason to mourn my loss, when that soul I loved so well, lives in felicities, and shall do so to all eternity. This I know in reason should be my cure; but flesh and blood in this mixed state is such a slave to

sense, the memory how I have lived, and how (as I think) I must ever do for the time to come, does so prevail and weaken my most Christian resolves, that I cannot act the part that mere philosophy (as you set down many instances,) enabled many to an appearance of easiness; for I verily believe they had no more than me, but vainly affected it. As I began the day with your letter and the sheets of discourse both enclosed in one paper, so I conclude it with some prayers you formerly assisted me with. Thus, doctor, you see you have a special right to those prayers you are pleased I should present for the same effect on your spirit, if a portion of suffering should be your lot, as you now wish on mine; which, after my poor fashion, I will not be wanting in, that am,

Sir, your obliged faithful friend and servant.

Southampton-house, 21 July, 1685.

XXIV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Now I know where to find you, good doctor, (which I do by your letter writ at my cousin Spencer's) you must be sure to hear from her who is still not ashamed to be on the receiving hand with you. God has given you the abilities, and opportunity for it, and not to me; and what am I, that I should say, Why is it not otherwise?—No, I do not, nor do I grudge or envy you the pious and ingenious pleasure you have in it; my part in this world is of another nature, and I thank you, sir, (but God must give you the recompence) you in-

will break us to pieces we must be
can tell his works from the beginning;
But who can praise his mercies more t
I, that he has not cut me off in ang
taken his chastisements so heavily,
his mercies in the midst of judgments
was of the fiercest sure ; but had I n
sonable ground to hope, that what I
my own soul, was raised from a prisoi
Was I not enabled to shut up my ovr
I increased not his sufferings by seem
were my sinking spirits supported by
passions of excellent and wise Christ
ceasing, admonishing me of my du
reproving, comforting me ! You k
was not destitute ; and I must ack
many others, like yourself, with de
contribution contributed to the gat

the head-ache have I felt since that miserable time, who used to be tormented with it very frequently. This calls for praises my dead heart is not exercised in, but I hope this is my infirmity; I bewail it. He that took our nature, and felt our infirmities, knows the weakness of my person, and the sharpness of my sorrows.

I should not forget to mention, sir, I did receive your papers and a letter I never had the opportunity to tell you of, dated 13 August; and another letter after that, where you write of your being in London within a fortnight; so that time slipping, I know not where to find you, nor how I came to let time do so.

I know not if you have heard some unwished-for accidents in my family have hurried me into new disorders. A young lady my uncle Ruvigny brought with him falling ill of the small-pox, I first removed my children to Bedford-house, then followed myself, for the quieting of my good uncle's mind, who would have it so; from thence I brought my little tribe down to Woburn, and when I heard how fatal the end was of the young lady's distemper, I returned myself to Bedford-house to take my last leave (for so I take it to be) of as kind a relation, and as zealous tender a friend as ever any body had. To my uncle and aunt their niece was an inexpressible loss, but to herself death was the contrary. She died (as most do) as she lived, a pattern to all who knew her. As her body grew weak, her faith and hope grew strong, comforting her comforters, and edifying all about her; ever magnifying the goodness of God, that she died in a country, where *she could in peace give up her soul to him that*

them to you, who shall ever be gratified
you ask from me, as a recompence of a
hours : it is a poor one indeed, the weak
prayers of

Your very much obliged

Woburn Abbey, 11 Oct. 1685.

You say I may direct as I will about th
now in my custody. I freely give my judg
great pity they should be hid like a cand
bushel ; as they are piously designed, they
the more effectual bleasing with them
hearts of such in whose hands they fall
believe it is an excellent discourse, why
not serve to excellent purposes ? I coul
of my opinion concurring them, but truly
it is taking too much upon me ; my mod
poses.

XXV.

them as one to me of your friendship in worldly and spiritual concerns : doing so, let waste my time nor yours to tell you they / valuable to me. That you are so contented l mine, I make the just allowance for ; not : worthiness of them, I know it cannot be, never, it enables me to keep up an advan- is conversation without scruple of being too lesome. You say some things sometimes, by a I should think you seasoned, or rather tainted being so much where compliment of praising st learned ; but I conclude, that often, what heartily wishes to be in a friend, one is apt to eve is so. The effect is not naught towards me, om it animates to have a true not false title to least virtue you are disposed to attribute to me. t I am far from such a vigour of mind as sur- ments the secret discontent so hard a destiny as ine has fixed in my breast ; but there are times e mind can hardly feel displeasure, as while such iendly conversation entertaineth it ; then a grate- l sense moves one to express the courtesy.

If I could contemplate the conducts of provi- pces with the uses you do, it would give ease deed, and no disastrous events should much af- et us. The new scenes of each day make me ten conclude myself very void of temper and rea- n, that I still shed tears of sorrow, and not of y, that so good a man is landed safe on the happy ore of a blessed eternity ; doubtless he is at rest, ough I find none without him, so true a partner : was in all my joys and griefs. I trust the Al- ighty will pass by this my infirmity ; I speak it in spect to the world, from whose enticing delights

upon the ever satisfying perfections of starting at his darkest providences, but rising continually either his glory, justice, is advanced by every one of them, and than over all his works, as we shall one day vishing delight see. In the mean time, I to suppress all wild imaginations a fancy is apt to let in ; and say with the Gospel, " I believe, help thou my unbeli

If any thing I say suggest to you m pious reflection, I have not hurt you, by self, by letting loose some of my crowdet I must not finish without telling you, I h book you mention of " Seraphical Me the Bishop of Bath and Wells,"* and shou see one here, since you design the prese nt you the last sheet of your papers, a course ; you can return it with the t would, sir, have been welcome to lor who expresses himself hugely obliged to

friend . to whom you jus

truly miserable or wretchedly so, that here, nor hopes for any hereafter. I may be near Christmas before my lord moves for the winter, but I have not yet him about it, nor how long he desires y; so whether I will come before him, e company, I know not; he shall please r I have no will in these matters, nor e thing or way better than another, if d conveniences be alike to the young whose service is all the business I have ld; and for their good I intend all dili-
power of,

Sir, your obliged friend to serve you.
Savoy, 27 Nov. 1685.

htily in arrear; pray let me know what, ill direct the paying it, or stay till I see

XXVI.

FZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

on it is a long time that I have inter-
commerce with which you have been
onour me on your part, by my omitting
due acknowledgments I ought for the
reign letters, and your own letter, more
an all the intelligence they contained;
t was, and must be esteemed of great
l who have the least honour for the
me, and ought to be prized and rated
y me, who do not wear that name only,
extraordinary character from him by

was wrote, and the constancy of your leave of your most tender final adieu to him, that you have cordials of my prescribing to formerly. I hope the consideration assisted with God's grace to imprint heart, will have that operation will be able entirely to resign a own will, desires, and all that wise disposal; and can be content the world without you, and you, great one, according to his own g

To this end you must labour to regrets you have upon reflecting edition, and comparing it with you comparing them in your mind m to you, because apt to create however the judgment you pronounced review may be erroneous, you m now than you were when you

attain to that happiness, which is not to be lost but by your own fault and neglect, nor ravished from you by the injury or violence of another. But, if your active mind is for trying things with things, I would direct your honour to look, as I know you do, with eyes of compassion on the afflicted state of those poor people in the neighbouring country, where the husband is divided from his tender wife, the parents from their dear children, and are neither permitted to live, nor yet allowed the favour to die; and then to turn your eyes upon yourself, enjoying, as you confess, your own health and strength in a greater measure than formerly, hopeful children, an affluence of temporal things, and numbers of friends, it may be more than the darlings and favourites of Providence, as it is here dispensed, do; and then recollect with yourself, and try if you can truly and safely pronounce of yourself, that you are miserable.

And if you cannot truly form such a judgment, I know your ladyship will be so sincere and generous as not to complain you are so to your friends, or bemoan yourself with yourself as such. I will not enlarge upon this topic as I might; for in good earnest no person is miserable but comparatively, and almost every man in some respect or other comparatively happy: but shall reserve what can be more said, though it may not be upon this argument, to be handled in the pursuance of that discourse, of which you have already the bigger part in your hands.—What remains I will endeavour to finish as fast as my little affairs here will give me leave; and I hope I shall be able to transmit some more papers relating to it within three or four more posts.

S LETTERS.

all times,
3,
r's most ob-
oted humbl
's, 27 Nov. 168

I.

WILLIAM.

returns come
age of conv
m not capti
have these i
so busy a life

g you with n
tful how the
you are in L
in so many
a; but still i
ort, doing th
iable creatu
e mind must
his is done c
est ends, th
ing chosen
make no dou
s the stronge
e that is sh
; for if we w
light would
ritual comfo
he glories, t

the most carnal heart can wish for ! The fies the immortal part of a man ; the other the depraved appetite. As buried as I am myself, and ever mourning the loss of an elicity, which if through weakness it ex- o bewail ; yet I reckon the sufferings for e of Christ (if to have that honour be my the obtaining a title to an eternal inherit- the place described, Revel. ch. xxi. and be infinitely above our sufferings in these f clay ; what I grieve the want of was such when here, but now glorified with the f just men made perfect.

I will take your advice, and vie my state iers, and begin with him in the highest y, as himself thinks, the king of a miser- ple ; but truly the most miserable himself, ing, as he does, the dignity of human na- id though, for secret ends of Providence, ffered to make those poor creatures drink a most bitter cup, yet the dregs are surely for himself. What a judgment is it upon ring mind, when perhaps half the world not God nor confesses the name of Christ iour, nor the beauty of virtue, which almost world has in derision, that it should not ex- i to a reformation of faith and manners ; t such a rage turn his power to extirpate a hat own the Gospel for their law and rule ! famous to his fame is the one ! How glo- his memory would the other hâve been ! is too wicked to be an instrument of so od to his degenerate age. Now, sir, I can- me but think myself less miserable than this

which will deprive us of a future without a deep repentance, which others. I hear our king has given

* The edict of Nantes, made 1598, in testants in France, and confirmed 1605, revoked 22 Oct. 1685, and the Hugonots The liberties of the Protestants in France upon solemn laws, upon perpetual, irre revocable edicts, and which could not be recalled once the public faith, the royal word, a oath. "How often did our king, Louis XIII, preserve us in our privileges? How many edicts did he set out to that purpose were taken to confirm those edicts? The very king himself solemnly promise, by declarations, to maintain us in all the granted us by the edict of Nantes? An scruple was there made to violate so many promises, and so many oaths?"—“*Le Refugees in Germany, 1687, on kin-
ship.*” Burnet says, “We see what coronation oaths, laws and promises re-

main now to be done the Danish

tion for those Protestants which have been drove hither. God make his people thankful for it.

My lord Gainsborough and all that family, sent in here as they went by to Dunstable, last week.

I know you will use your power, and I wish you could prevail with my nephew to settle himself in a family of his own. I trust God will be gracious to the child of so good a mother, and incline him to what shall be in the end best for him.

Though I am in the country, I should call to memory you are in London. I do so, and therefore close this from,

Sir, your obliged

And affectionate servant.

Woburn Abbey, Nov. 1685.

The papers are swelled to a great bigness, but if you care for them in London, I will direct them weekly, though I may not happen to write; for sometimes indeed I have occasion to do so too much, for so heavy a mind as mine is. It is my present case this morning.

XXVIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

WHEN I tell you, doctor, this is the seventh letter dispatched for this morning, any one of which could not be omitted, and that I have still before noon French dispatches to make, you will not, though I write but a few lines, believe I willingly decline the writing more. Letters of compliment I would lay aside for it, I assure you, if I had more

time. Yes, doctor, the liberty I take when to you, gratifies much more my weary mind than the matter one fills up paper with to others. something of that sort must be, while we are here, especially when one has more than one miserable carcase to have a regard for, who my children are, I have, and with a diligent will I wrestle to support them, and make great, or worthy to be so, who have been (by a special providence) unfortunate. Knows, says Solomon, what is good for man's life; all the days of his vain life? Yet an inseparable connexion between God's will and his work is perfect, for ways are judgment; and this is a necessary lesson at the astonishing changes of this a look upon your letter, doctor, I shall never begin anew upon one part or other of it, that figure only of a man, if one speaks of gages to say a great deal: but I refrain.

I read a letter last night from my sister. She writes as every body that has human feelings must; and says that of 1,800,000 there are more than 10,000 esteemed to be left in Ireland; and they, I guess, will soon be converted into dragoons, or perish. So that near two millions poor souls, made of the same clay as himself, felt the rigour of that savage man. What a prophetic rage, I agree will come in a prophetic rage, I agree will come I have had reports of my nephew, but I proceed; yet I show you how hard it is so, by

Your very affectionate friend to serve
Woburn Abbey, Nov. 1685.

XXIX..

DR. TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

(Birch's Life of Tillotson.)

Canterbury, Nov. 21, 1685.

HONOURED MADAM,

WHEN I look back upon the date of your ladyship's letter, I blush to see it hath lain by me so long unanswered. And yet I assure you no day passeth, in which your ladyship and your children are not in my mind. But I know not how, in the hurry I am in in London, one business presseth so hard upon another, that I have less time for the things to which I have most inclination. I am now for a while got out of the torment and noise of that great city, and do enjoy a little more repose.

It was a great trouble to me to hear of the sad loss your dear friend sustained during his short stay in England.* But in some circumstances, to die is to live. And that voice from heaven runs much in my mind, which St. John heard in his vision of the last (as I think) and most extreme persecution, which should befall the faithful servants of God, before the final downfall of Babylon, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth;" meaning, that they were happy, who were taken away before that terrible and utmost trial of the faith and patience of the saints. But however that

* The death of her cousin, niece of Mons. Ruvigny, mentioned in the letter of 11th Oct. to Dr. Fitzwilliam.

be, I do greatly rejoice in the preservation of the children from the great danger threatened on that occasion, and thank God heartily for whatever becomes of us, I hope to see better things.

Just now came the news of the dissolution of the parliament to the 10th of February, which was very surprising to us. We are not without apprehension, but in the mean time things will be dispensed with. In agreement against the next meeting of parliament, our greatest comfort must be placed in all in the hands of God, and that he will take care of us. And do not think, madam, that we are less for having put so bitter a cup into the mouth of He whom he loved infinitely best. He drank much deeper of it.

I did hope to have waited upon you at your return to London; but as the prorogation will carry me into the month of March, I entreat you to present my service to his lordship, to dear Mr. Pitt, and to the young ladies. I am not worthy of the attention you are pleased to have of me; but I shall always be gratified by your ladyship's most friendly notice of me.

Your ladyship's most faithful
And affectionate servant,

XXX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM

I PRESUME, doctor, you are now settled in retirement (for such it is in consequence of your declining health) that you are unable to obtain at London,) that you are

perase the enclosed papers; hereafter I will send them once a week, or oftener if you desire it.

Yesterday the lord Delamere passed his trial, and was acquitted.* I do bless God that he has caused some stop to the effusion of blood has been shed of late in this poor land. But, doctor, as diseased bodies turn the best nourishments, and even cordials into the same sour humour that consumes and eats them up, just so do I. When I should rejoice with them that do rejoice, I seek a corner to weep in. I find I am capable of no more gladness; but every new circumstance, the very comparing my night of sorrow after such a day, with theirs of joy, does, from a reflection of one kind or other, rack my uneasy mind. Though I am far from wishing the close of theirs like mine, yet I cannot refrain giving some time to lament mine was not like theirs; but I certainly took too much delight in my lot, and would too willingly have built my tabernacle here; for which I hope my punishment will end with life.

The accounts from France are more and more astonishing; the perfecting the work is vigorously pursued, and by this time completed it is thought; all without exception, having a day given them; only these I am going to mention have found so much grace as I will tell you. The countess du Roy *

* Henry Booth, lord Delamere, tried for partaking in Monmouth's rebellion. Finch, solicitor general, was very violent against him, but Saxon, the only positive evidence, appearing perjured, he was acquitted by his peers. He afterwards strenuously promoted the Revolution; in 1690, was created earl of Warrington, and died 1693.

† Countess du Roy, wife of Frederic Charles du Roy,

written to come out of France. I
for a truth last night, but I hope i
firmation.

It is enough to sink the strongest h
relations which are sent over ; how t
torn from their mothers, and sent in
their mothers to another ; the husl
or the gallies. These are amazi
doctor ! God out of infinite mercy s
believers. I am too melancholy an
be very long, so will hasten to concl

knight of the elephant, and generalissim
Denmark ; his daughter, Henrietta, was i
William Wentworth, earl of Strafford.

* Frederic de Schomberg, marshal of F
by king William, duke Schomberg, &c. In
battle of the Boyne, 1 July, 1690. He
Schomberg, by lord Dudley's daughter.
killed, with several sons, at the battle of F
duke was a man of great calmness, applica
of true judgment, exact probity, and an
fanner. *The recognition of the Protestant.*

you lord Talbot* is come out of Ireland, and brought husbands for his daughters-in-law; one was married on Tuesday to a lord Rosse; the other lord is Dungan; Walgrave, that married the king's daughter, is made a lord.† The brief for the poor Protestants was not sealed on Wednesday, as was hoped it would be; the chancellor bid it to be laid by, when it was offered him to seal.

I am very really, doctor,
Your affectionate friend and servant.

15 Jan. 1685—6

XXXI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I HAVE received and read your letters, good doctor. As you never fail of performing a just part to your friend, so it were pity you should not consider enough to act the same to yourself. I think you do; and all you say that concerns your private affairs, is justly and wisely weighed; so I let that rest. I acknowledge the same of the distinct paper which touches more nearly my sore; perhaps I ought to do it with some shame and confusion of face, and perhaps I do so, doctor; but my weakness is invincible, which makes me, as you phrase it excellently, possess past calamities. But he

* Lord Richard Talbot, afterwards earl of Tyrconnel, a papist.

† Henry, lord Waldegrave, of Chewton, married the lady Henrietta Fitz-James, natural daughter to king James II. by Arabella Churchill, sister to John duke of Marlborough; he retired to France in 1689, and died at Paris the same year.

ONCE IN THE night I heard a great
square, so little ordinary, I called up
sent her down to learn the occasion.
up a very sad one, that Montague-hou
and it was so indeed : it burnt with
lence, the whole house was consumed
The wind blew strong this way, so
under fire a great part of the time, t
flames continually covering the hous
the court. My boy awaked, and said
stifled with smoke, but being told the
see it, and so was satisfied without
strange bedfellow very willingly, lady
youngest boy, whom his nurse had bro
up in a blanket. Lady Devonshire * c
morning and lay here, and had done
for a second ill accident. Her brother,
who has been ill of a fever twelve

this morning it is a great blow to the family; and that he was a most dutiful son and kind friend to all his family.

Thus we see what a day brings forth! and how momentary the things we set our hearts upon! O! I could heartily cry out, When will longed-for eternity come! But our duty is to possess our souls with patience.

I am unwilling to shake off all hopes about the brief, though I know them that went to the chancellor* since the refusal to seal it, and his answer does not encourage one's hopes. But he is not a lover of smooth language; so in that respect we may not so soon despair.†

I fancy I saw the young man you mentioned to be about my son. One brought me six prayer-books as from you; also distributed three or four in the house. I sent for him, and asked him if there was no mistake? He said, 'No'; and after some other questions, I concluded him the same person. Doctor, I do assure you I put an entire trust in your sincerity to advise; but, as I told you, I shall ever take lord Bedford along in all the concerns of the child. He thinks it early yet to put

* George, lord Jefferies, baron of Wem, very inveterate against lord Russell. He was, says *Burnet*, scandalously vicious, drunk every day, and furiously passionate; and when lord chief justice, he even betrayed the decencies of his post, by not affecting to appear impartial, as became a judge, and by running upon all occasions into noisy declamations. He died in the Tower, April 18, 1689.

† Doctor, afterwards bishop Beveridge, objected to the reading the brief in the cathedral of Canterbury, as contrary to the Rubric. Tillotson replied, "Doctor, doctor, charity is above rubrics."—*Birch*.

that, and assent.
I am much advised, and indeed ...
be fitted to my mind, to take a Fr^t
shall do a charity, and profit the c
should learn French. Here are many
over, as are of all kinds, God knows

I have still a charge with me, lad
daughter, who is just come into m
must break off.

I am, sir, truly,
Your fai

29 January, 1685—6.

The young lady tells me lord Ar
but rather better.

XXXII.

which she desires me, in pursuance of a dying brother's advice, and her son's inclination, to propose to lord Gainsborough a marriage between the present lord* and lady Jane. I have done it; though I wished she had made choice of any other person than myself, who desiring to know the world no more, am utterly unfitted for the management of any thing in it; but must, as I can, engage in such necessary offices to my children, as I cannot be dispensed from, nor desire to be, since it is an eternal obligation upon me, to the memory of a husband, to whom, and his, I have dedicated the few and sad remainder of my days, in this vale of misery and trouble. But to suspend this and hasten my report, the proposition is accepted; my lord declares himself willing to do all he can for his children; he offers 8000*l.* paid as with the last, and leaves out the 2000*l.* coming back if lord Campden should happen to die. I believe lord Digby and his mother will be soon in town. My sister Alington came to Bedford-house three or four days ago. Lord Northampton's great match is crossed; and now the lord Mulgrave† is an attendant on her

* William lord Digby, deservedly called *the Good*.—Whiston speaks highly of him; Pope mentions him as full of days and honour. He married Jane, second daughter to Edward earl of Gainsborough, and died November, 1752, aged ninety years, nine months.

† Lord Mulgrave, John Sheffield, afterwards duke of Buckingham, a person of the highest accomplishments, but of a sceptical turn. He married, 1st, Ursula, widow of the earl of Conway; 2d, Catharine Greville, widow of Baptist earl of Gainsborough; 3d, the lady Catharine Duxbury (*natural daughter to king James II. by Catharine Sedley*, who was the widow of James Annesley, earl of Anglesey).

RUSSELL'S LE
down in grea
hampton challe
to fight, so th
cle Ruvigny and
Doctor, I must i
can continue t

Your faithful fri

S—6.

XXXIII.

DR. FITZWILL

spects, good doc
e the town to
out of it yeste
le Ruvigny, so l
incess is with cl
f the small-pox
em: it will be
he intercourses
not look calm,
as a regiment
, but I think, he
ade, so he will
of a parliamen
so many days.
ght that will v

s separated by act
ill usage.
Henry Talmash, aft

of Bolingbroke is dead; he died in a boat, as he lived.

Lady Gainsborough sends me word her lord mends still. Lady Campden's woman is in town to furnish lying-in things; I had the favour to have her come, and give me a compliment on her lady's part. I am glad when they remember to do civil things for their own sakes; but I a little wonder he has not been to see his father. My sister Alington is coming to town presently.

I have told my news, and now must yield to a less liked employment, being called upon to a little business.

Your obliged friend and servant.

23 March, 1685—6.

XXXIV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letter lies before me, doctor, but I dare not read it over, it would furnish me with so much to say, and I must not take time to do it; the lowness of my spirits, and the sadness of my constant thoughts, make me fancy myself hurried with some of my own pitiful affairs, and the entertaining my sister, who came to me this day se'nnight.

The present temper of your mind appears so suitable to what mine ever must remain, that I could talk and not fear to give new oppressions to your mind so tendered with the loss of an excellent friend, and man. You carefully and religiously prescribe yourself limits and bounds to your lamentations; but I would willingly observe if you exceed them not;

English news, I have none . . .
I would have it, which is, to di
so touchingly fixed upon mort
hear of no other.

The disposers of the brief-
time yesterday; I am told the c
in a manner he sent away many
concluded so strictly on the q
as were to partake of the chari
admit none to receive of it,
sacrament from his own chapl
will be better informed than I

The reports from France ar
can be. Duke de la Force is
to be vexed till he will change
amicable composition of the
D * * * and my sister. My
wanting, and that in

XXXV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR letter, sir, dated June 27, and sheets of paper that accompanied it, found me at Woburn; by a letter from sister Alington, I understood you were with her that very day, and had completed your intention towards her, as you have most admirably your pious one towards distressed me; for which the world may hereafter stand indebted to my uncommon sad fate, for all that good they may share out of it. It is most certain, if you give me the power you speak of, I dare not deprive this wanting generation so rich a supply, when I may have the dispensing of it. Your errors, doctor, would be others' perfections; for I must believe your being master of very much matter, gives a vast advantage over others; yet I allow a cause of some trouble to yourself, by restraining that flux of words and notions that flow so fast from you; but it is a rare excellency when the pain is more to refuse than choose. I cannot tell, doctor, whether your papers met me in a better temper now than at some other times to relish them; yet sure I esteem these sheets to be so fine, that it brought into my mind the loss you have lately sustained of a much loved friend; and to conclude, that a new experience of grief had, in your struggles to overcome all unfit discontent, raised your fancy to the highest pitch of framing arguments against it: it is a happy effect of sorrow, and a sure evidence to the soul, that the promises of the holy word belong to her; that the

faint or weary in God's serving contemplations, doctor! with delight for such moments truly, part of a moment that fixed. It is true, we can (you occasions of grief without being in those passions; but to murmuring heart, then is the there lies the sin. O Lord, I of thy weak servant; but thankful that I had such a friend tested that he has had dismission here (an expression you with.) When my time comes, I know not how it will am sure it is my best reviving I am plunged in multitudes of ~~I sorrow and trouble~~ a litt

approach of a separation; and that may make us content, if not desire a delay. If it were not so implanted there, many would not endure the evils of life, that now do it, though they are taught duty that obliges us thereto.

I know, sir, I am very tedious; and if it be impertinent, I know also you will take it as if it were not so. Now I take this freedom scarce with any body else; but it is a great indulgence to myself, and I am very certain you are pleased I should use it. I find it most especially useful on the return of these my saddest days, when dismal and yet astonishing remembrances crowd fastest into my mind: however, I shall, by God's goodness to me, stick close to those helps you have provided me, and read every day these new sheets, till the bitterest of all be past. On Tuesday, my sister Alington designs to be here; I am sorry it happens to be just that day, since I affect nothing that is particular or singular; but as yet I have not seen any body besides my children on that day, being 13 July; nor does it seem decent for me to do it, almost, when I remember the sad scene I saw and attended at all that day, and the miserable accidents of it, as the unfortunate end of lord Essex,* to me so fatal, if

* Arthur Capel, earl of Essex (son of Arthur who was taken at Colchester, condemned and beheaded 9 March, 1648—9); he was a true patriot, and for delivering a petition against the parliament sitting at Oxford, was accused of the Ryehouse Plot, (Brit. Compend.) and committed to the Tower. He might (says Burnet) have made his escape; but his tenderness for lord Russell, and a fear that his absence might have an ill influence at his trial, made him stay at his country-house till a party of horse were sent to bring

But I w...
construct what I shall ...
fail to her (by God's grace) because
tenderly he loved her, though I am
now, she returned it not in love to
thought she had for him, and that she
from her. But we are not loved in
those we love best: she is very exacting
and when she pleases; but enough.

I will make no answer to that part
where you express some resentment
hands by another than yourself.
it, but the disappointment of Mr
Fitz. on a day I thought I should
who was to do it, I did conclude
dean would be disengaged by laying
in his parish. I let pass the matter
another dean, or rather on his
the supreme pastor, wh

as hung about her for these last six weeks; nor apprehend a hectic, but youth, I hope, become it.

I sent you the Gazettes, doctor, though I be so old, all the use of them will be to your French tongue.

am, with great sincerity,

Your faithful friend to serve you.

, 1686

William Coventry* left a noble charity when 2000*l.* to the French refugees, and 3000*l.* in slaves. His four executors are, Harry Ames and Harry Thin, which are two brothers of the lord Weymouth, and Frank Coventry, new. He died at Tunbridge, and was buriedhurst.

XXXVI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

DOCTOR,

re my heart is filled with the obligation, soever my words may express it, for all ours you have set apart (in a busy life) for icular benefit, for the quieting my distracted s, and reducing them to a just measure of : for all I have or can suffer. I trust I shall ligence, and some success, serve those ends re designed to. They have very punctually,

a hearty for the Protestant religion and interest of and had a perfect knowledge of affairs.—Burke.

row, which you have laid it before maintained, and rarely illustrated. of those has gained by a dismission f attendance here: while he lived his led me to be so too, and so it shoul then my soul should be full of joy; and cheerful, but it is sad and hea distinguish how, and why we love a prodigious fondness of one's self that is hid from me I took deli knows much greater than he did say for myself is, that while we flesh, to the perfectest, some di a separation from things we lo think I have in my affliction, t thy law had been my delight, i in my trouble. The rising fi consolation, doctor! holy

these Gazettes, and will send no more, for I reckon you will be in your progress of visits.

I wish with you lord Campden would marry ; but I want skill to prevail by what I can say. I hope I need employ none to persuade Dr. Fitzwilliam that I am very acknowledging, and very sincerely

His friend and servant.

18th July, 1686.

XXXVII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I CAN divine no more than yourself, good doctor, why a letter writ the 18th of July should come to you before one that was writ the 13th ; they went from hence in order, I am very sure. I answer yours as soon as I can, and yet not soon enough to find you at Cotenham, as I guessed, being you say you intended to be at Windsor the middle of September, and the greatest part of the interval at Hereford ; and I remember you have in a former letter told me, you intended a visit at lord Gainsborough's ; so that this paper being likely to be a wanderer, and so in hazard of not coming to you at all it may be, I will not charge it with those letters you ask for ; they are too valuable to me to be ventured, especially since mine loiter so by the way ; therefore I will hear again from you before I send them, with particular directions where they shall come to you. I read with some contentment, doctor, that as either to speak or write a compliment would ill become you, it is your opinion my nature is averse to be so treated. It is so indeed, if I know

I do confess there is a beaut
draws our love to those we find
give a secret pleasure to have
one's self that one finds so char
am very certain, doctor, your j
error, that the fastest cement o
One may love passionately, but
if the friend be not a good ma
paration comes, what venerat
their memory, we consider as lc
eternity !

As to your papers, sir, I wou
abuse the power you give me,
so, if I am a cause that others h
to try the same cordial I hav
when under great heaviness of
those books you have avoided

----- do the same matter

before one of this sort, I will not be content nor tyrannical, in the power which is in my , because you have given it : it would be an : return to your compositions in my great dis-

I would acquiesce, and be content with , for such to whom I would recommend the ig of them also. I will tell you another scrut st now (as I write) risen in my thoughts, and fore not at all digested, that though you do wn the work by your name before it, yet the r seldom fails being known, and the peculiar ion, when there is one. Whether the politic were good then in the publishing of it, it is adle to consider of perhaps. And pray do so, ot from a quickness of mind answer me pre- ; you put it not in balance when the design serve one you profess a particular respect to. remember my end is served, and theirs, we , may be so too ; those we know not, will be bers. This is my highest objection, and what not too easily pass over. We live in difficult . God in mercy fit each one for his lot. My s lie ready, and some prayers you sent with rist papers.

sister Alington we have kept still here ; she tens to leave us every week. Rachel is very again ; I desire to bless God for it. My sister's s recovering. Our news letters say her lord new friendship with lord Danby ; but nothing ange in such as follow courts.

t knowing the fate of this letter, I will add no from, good doctor,

Your obliged friend and servant.
urn Abbey, 12th August, 1686.

I.

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XXXVIII.

DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

I CANNOT; very honoured and good madam, be better pleased than when I am doing any service for my friends, especially in that way where no power of man can render me unserviceable while it permits me to breathe, in administering to their spiritual estate ; because this is doing God service, and glorifying my great Master while I can bring any one soul forward to glory.

Certainly to be able to comfort and refresh any sad dejected spirits in a dark and gloomy day of trouble, or to aid such an one to submit with patience, if the resigning or offering up itself with cheerfulness cannot be effected, to God's correction, which is so oft misapprehended for the mark of his displeasure, is to make the passage easier to another life, and consequently to assist such an one in his journey towards the happy state of that, when all the discouragements on the road thither, are either removed, or much lessened. If then that which I sent you assuaged the pain of the wound, by pouring any oil into it ; or if it helped you to bear the smart of it with contentedness, while the return of the season opened it afresh, and your sense of it, I cannot but from such a reflection, that any performance of mine contributed to the ease or the courage of a person whom I regard so much, and ought to do so ; for whose welfare I am so solicitous, and should be culpable if I were less—reap a great deal of satisfaction. The shortest me-

thod of gaining this contentedness in all the stages of our lives we are to pass through, is to love God with all our hearts and souls, and to love nothing here below, even what He allows us to love with the tenderest affection, but in Him, and for Him ; and then we cannot complain of his taking away the object on which we were enamoured, from our fruition, when it was only He we loved and enjoyed in it ; and Him we may still enjoy, though we are dispossessed of that, because He is ever with us. And because the object may be such we may enjoy again, of which nature all our friends are, who are taken out of the sight of our eyes ; for this end we are therefore to express our love towards God, in aspiring, in thirsting after a more immediate and intimate fruition of Him than this life affords, that we may in Him again enjoy those we are separated from. This is the great argument of consolation that St. Cyprian makes use of against the fear of death, in his Treatise of Mortality, that it will bring us to the sight and fruition of a number of friends, who have preceded us, taking a shorter or earlier course to happiness than we have done.

I have a meditation on this subject fitted to my own use, and since disposed to the use of two other friends ; for it was designed to serve more than myself—which I may take some opportunity of transcribing, and sending to you. In the mean time, and in all seasons, I will ever continue, with my prayers for you and yours,

Very good and honoured madam,

Your most humble,

And faithfully devoted servant.

Chilton, August 12th.

The last i
husband, if I am not gro
am not that he is a very
man.

XX

TO DR. FITZ

I AM so persuaded of do
for me and mine, that tho
the end of the week, which
sire to get all the time alo
little, notwithstanding I
more, by denying to see a
said, I omitted the end, I
tell you how good God has
of my child, whose eye is
all

I must not abide on this subject : I had your very good letter, and think myself

Your obliged friend and servant.

4th Oct. 1686.

XL.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

As I think time very well spent in reading your letters, good doctor, I am ever disposed to thank you for them, and all the consolation they bring with them, the excitations to all good directions relating to practice or contemplation, by all pious arts, seeking a cure to an unhappy creature, and faulty in giving too much scope to nature and passion, not duly considering the great blessings God still continued to me ; for that must have softened the sharpness of other thoughts, that have subdued me but too absolutely ; yet as you exceedingly well remember me, I might reflect how my son was raised in my great day of trouble, and that I felt lately I could yet be more miserable, if the evil threatened had fallen on another beloved child ; but God has been gracious to me in healing her sorrow, and I will endeavour religiously to perform my resolution, made in my agonies for her, of some cheerful thankfulness.

Your last, doctor, I received since my return to Woburn ; the date was the 10th October. I have been the less quick in my answer, from some expectation, if you came to London, I should hear again from you ; but I think your usual time is, not

till November, and that is too long to stay, so send this to Windsor.

I will not argue about the sheets of paper, since there cannot well be any determination, still you have, I guess, those papers you once ordered to be sent to you to Cotenham; but your letter came not so timely for me to think fit to send them, by reason of your journey to Herefordshire. I am very anxious you should be safe in the first place; and then it is fit to wish all good people all the benefit they can have by the pious labours of such as we blessed with gifts to prepare it for them. Alas! I doctor, I am as far as yourself can be from imagining, that any the most forward to take his life (in which all the innocent delights of mine were bound) had the least thought to embitter mine; or indeed thought of me at all. The point in that kind is no more, as I conceive it, than the sense of an officiousness to one that so sadly laments what they would have all rejoiced at; but this is a matter so far sought for, that I think there is nothing in it and the less from the acquaintance, which is notoriously known, and your dependence now upon my father. I will let it rest this time, with my hearty wishes, you may advise and choose how in this and all other concerns; I do it as you w^t sincerely

Your affectionate friend to serve you
Woburn Abbey, 27th Oct. 1686.

I have now received a letter from lady Gborough, as surprising as any thing of that kin be to one. It is to tell me that lord Camd

come from his sister Digby's, the night before, to ask his father's leave to marry the lord Brook's eldest daughter,* and was returning in haste to accomplish it. My lady indeed writ to me, as long ago as when they were entertaining the king at Portsmouth, that a Warwickshire knight had writ to her lord to propose this young lady to his son, but I expected no other effect from it, than has been from so many other motions of that kind: however, the wise man says, there is a time for all things. I am certain there can be none in which I do not wish their mother's children happy as my own. I think myself hugely obliged to my lady in taking care I may not have all the advertisements from a newspaper, or the hand of those as little concerned, as I had now, and happened to open it before hers, not knowing it, the superscription not being her hand. It was a matter so unlooked for by me, it gained no credit, till I read my lady's own letter.

XLI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Do not love, good doctor, to let your letters lie me unanswered. I ever find much in them that presses my obligation to you, and as soon inclines

Wriothesley Baptist, lord Camden, son to Edward of Gainsborough, by lady Elisabeth Wriothesley; married Catharine, daughter to Fulk Greville, lord Brook. Anne, sister to William, earl (afterwards duke) of Northumberland, was married to Robert, father of Fulk, lord

rs.

ay of thankful-
e, I am persuau-
ng into my soul
y duties you so
my endeavours,
ould be treated.
apologies ; they
the mistrusts of
ou observe too
e hand, and are
to do it on the
r your conduct.
i in those cases,
.t of that exalted
old my smallest

' with yours for
l that his happy-
ception. Some
ily pleased at the
; me to him, but
ever be washed
; however, that
young lady, and
's wife. I hear
ported lover. I
London ; I fear
ee him since his
ster Alington,
I doubt not t
discourse of
ich, if God p
thereabc***

XLII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

NOTHING less fatal than what happened last week to my poor sister's family, I think, should have kept me, I am sure not willingly, from writing to you, dear doctor; but you will not wonder I found no time for such an exercise as this, when you know has been the will of God to take the life of her dearest son,* after lying ill of a fever eight days. I believe she takes it heavily, for truly I have not seen her since the child died on Sunday morning, and her lord and herself went on Saturday night to lady Harvey's.† She gave me her girl to take home to me; the other boy being then feverish also, continues in the house. Now my own sad trials making me know how mean a comforter I can be, I think my best service is to take some care of her two children, who are both well now; and hope God will be pleased to keep them so, and teach her to be content. God should place his creatures where he knows it is best for them to be, and when it is best for us, we shall go to them; but they must not come back to us, who remain to struggle in an unquiet world, in all appearance; yet God's hand is not shortened that he cannot save; however, if he

* Ralph, son to Ralph and Elisabeth Montague, died about twelve years old.

† Lady Harvey, Elizabeth, daughter of Edward (father of Ralph) lord Montague, was married to sir Daniel Harvey, knight, ambassador to Constantinople.

~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ your tongue.

The poor princess is said the king is not ple ordinary the States are seems, entirely in the i chief justice Benefield+ last Sunday ; and a mas but I do not know hi once more to write how last, which was to send

* Princess Anne, married Frederic III. King of Den daughters, and two sons, born 2d June, 1685, and lad 1686; the last died, Feb. 2, William, duke of Gloucester in 1689, died in 1700: pri whom she lived in matchles

blotted, I fear to mistake, therefore this is by the post, to assure you I am very faithfully

Your friend and servant.

9th Feb. 1688—7. Ash Wednesday.

Lord Newport * gave up his staff on Tuesday. The Gazette this day says lord Waldegrave has the lord Maynard's; and lord Yarmouth Newport's † staff. Prince George is ill of a fever. Both the children were opened; the eldest was all consumed, but the youngest very sound, and likely to live.

XLIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I MUST keep still to Friday, since I have not a new direction from you, as I asked by the post last week. I will not repeat the sad intelligence I gave you then, because I am sure you cannot be without the information now.

The good princess has taken her chastisement heavily; the first relief of that sorrow proceeded from the threatening of a greater, the prince being ill. I never heard any relation more moving than that of seeing them together. Sometimes they wept, sometimes they mourned; in a word, then sat silent,

* Francis lord Newport, afterwards earl of Bradford, married Diana, sister to William earl (duke) of Bedford.

† William Paston, earl of Yarmouth, treasurer of the household, married the lady Charlotte Jemima Henrietta Maria Boyle, or Fitzroy, natural daughter to Charles II. by Elizabeth Killigrew.

My sister continues -
afflicted at her loss : it seems as if she
return again at this time to Montague
take some house near Windsor. Her
still with me, but the boy at Montague
though now very well, he is not suffered
ther than the next room ; the present
loss of the other has occasioned more c
than was necessary. This is a fine liv
hope God will spare it to them to th
and not in wrath, as sometimes one
children are. We little know what
ask for, when we do so for the lives &
friends.

The king refuses audience to mor
till matters are adjusted with his ne
in Holland, for he has not had his y
been to visit this, that i

yet walking with his white staff.* The reports are divers ; some say he has answered the question unmannerly ; but the king told him, in consideration of his age, he should wear his staff : others are apt to think he will be absent ; and more are of this last opinion ; as also that the parliament shall continue still to be prorogued. The lord Sunderland said to that effect a few days ago ; but the words of ministers are not easily understood in their true meaning.

The talk is great that France will early in the spring fall into Alsace, but my French friends will not allow it ; they agree he would fain make a peace of the truce, and fright them into it, (if nothing else will do) with the threats of a war, yet will engage in none.

I am, sir, your real friend.

18th Feb. 1686—7.

XLIV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THERE is so much reason, doctor, to think that time well spent is so in reading your excellent letters, that it is time lost to spend any in telling you I

* Duke of Ormond was steward of the household ; he died 26th July, 1688, eminent for zeal, loyalty, and fidelity. His son, Thomas earl of Ossory, honoured and esteemed by all for his courage, virtue, and many excellent qualities, died 1679 : by his lady, Amelia de Nassau, he left several children ; his eldest daughter, Elizabeth, was married to James Stanley, earl of Derby. He defended his father's conduct in parliament with spirit and success.

will never find cause to let
doubt whether I use some s
for all future events, and tu
ness the counsel and instru
men, whose friendship, ze
pose them with painful la
win us to that is infinite
think, could but this single
in our hearts, that God ki
place his creatures, and i
not to punish what he ha
safely could we live by rule
not as perhaps I do, because
was a perpetual bliss to me
we are strangers and pilgrim
to a better country, and t
with bad accommodations :

perpetual calm. What can be more? The thought asps one's heart, and causes the imprisoned soul to long to take her flight! But it is our duty to wait with patience each of us our appointed time.

My sister is just now at Mr. Winwood's, by Windsor; when she comes back, I shall make her know how much you have considered her; and I pray God to lay it close to her heart, that she may entirely into the strengths of grace, the more sincerely she is assaulted with discomfits here. She has a fine lovely boy left. The poor princess continues still at Richmond, too sad I fear.

Monsieur Dykvelt had his audience on Monday, and was retired with the king half an hour in his closet. He is allowed to be a man of parts and integrity: what his business is, every one is left to his own guess as yet.*

Lord Clarendon landed on Monday last: it is affirmed the new governor lays heavy weight on him, as that he leaves the people under great discouragements, occasioned by the sad stories he has told them, and using all arguments to bring them away by whole families; that in a little time he did not doubt to reassume them, when they would be made sensible no harm was meant to them.

The king is marrying the lady Mary Tudor to one Mr. Radcliffe, † a gentleman of great estate in the north, and ancient family; a papist.

* Dykvelt's instructions were drawn up by Dr. Burnet.—
“History of his own Times,” page 708.

† Sir Francis Ratcliff, of Dilston, Northumberland, married the lady Mary Tudor, natural daughter to Charles II. by Mary Davis. He was created earl of Derwentwater, March, 1687—8.

Oct. 1.

Englaud, and Ju~~ng~~^{ng}-
tegrity; which is more than can
Mr. Jenkyns * of the north, he
1200 pounds per annum.

He was accused as the author
let's grievous misfortune, but
rations he denied it to persons
that were concerned for her; y
self her husband more than a y
of so bad a story. Lord North
last presented, on the bishop's
the king, to which there is yet
petition contained no more th
sense of lying under the king's
ging that might be taken off

* Toby Jenkins, esq. of Grims
Lady Elizabeth Pawlet, youngest
successor afterwards

ration will presently come out, to show the king's dispensing power.* Mr. Savil was yesterday morning in the king's closet.—The event is expected. Many are persuaded the French king is bent for action this spring ; my French friends will not allow it. If my paper did not put me in mind, I know not how long I should have rambled on. Room must be left for all my good things : the best turkey, the best pork and cheese that can be eat : the last bit of pork eat last night. This is not lent-fare, doctor.

25 February, 1686-7.

XLV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

ALTHOUGH I take your life, good doctor, to be a continual doing good to souls, and am very certain you would not exclude mine from the best benefits you can help it with ; and therefore from the general course of your actions do rely upon being profited by your precepts, examples, and pious prayers ; yet I know myself to owe you, as one you have distinguished from others by your particular labours, to make my sorrowful soul find comfort in what true joys are only to be found. Therefore, if I knew how, I would, both in my actions and words, make my acknowledgments distinguished from others. I know of what sort they are you would like best ; to preserve myself with better care to

* February 12, 1686-7, a proclamation for liberty of conscience in Scotland. April 4, 1687, king James II.'s declaration, suspending the penal laws and test.

days, I lived as if I knew no night
that makes my separation still so
to my shame and sorrow, I must
heart seems so bound down to a
that even the solemnity of this bl
calls for our most exalted praises
nor yet does it melt at the medi
Saviour's suffering for sinners ; t
are ever ready, when I permit th
my calamity. This is matter of
and, I hope, I make it such ; an
ing the duty, till God sees it f
better refreshments, and taste
which his servants are often so
will wait with a quiet submissi

Here has appeared no great
went ; the liberty of conscienc
matter, I meddle not with it,
lower matters, as I may tell
admiral Herbert* is forbid to

Mr. Forester, who has been in Holland some considerable time, is sent for by a privy seal.

There is a sheet of paper writ, as the king has said, by doctor Burnet, to give reasons against taking away the test. It is hard to get; when I have it you shall see it. Some think it is not Burnet's.*

The prince and princess have consented to see him no more. Lady Rochester † lies still in a languishing condition. Lord Peterborough ‡ is declared a Roman Catholic: the report is, two more, the chancellor § and lord president || will next Sunday. I remember no more, so leave you to the Gazette, ever continuing

Your real friend and servant.

1 April, 1687.

XLVI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

By doctor Fitzwilliam's letter from Windsor, I have a demonstration to add to many others, that he remembers me wherever he is. A piece of paper which I scribbled out to you, lies, I believe, at your house at Cotenham. However foolish a thing it may be to say, the head-ache has hindered me again writing to you, since I knew you to be at Windsor;

* Burnet wrote the reasons against repealing the test.

† Henrietta, daughter of Richard Boyle, earl of Burlington and Cork, wife of Lawrence Hide, earl of Rochester.

‡ Henry Mordaunt, earl of Peterborough; he died without issue male, 1697.

§ Jeffries.

|| Earl of Sunderland.

from me, —
quest; for truly I am tormented
those pains upon me. Howe
not so fierce; as I was indulg
great care not to disappoint
into the country, which the
make without me; therefore
till yesterday was past, woul
might increase the pain. It is
pretty well this morning; but
ther you would read this or my
journey to Cotenham, I write
have a just title to all my
sequently to the best recomm
in my imperfect prayers for
ships upon you. And now
zettes, and till the holy weel
recommending ever me and
in your choicest hours.

May, 1667.

v v

pious and so kind a friend would have been an advantage to me I am not at all worthy of, who entertain with so heavy a heart those many and great mercies God still preserves to me his murmuring servant, who am indeed brimful with the memory of that unfortunate and miserable change in my own condition, since I lived regularly here before.

The poor children are well pleased to be a little while in a new place, ignorant how much better it has been both to me and them; yet I thought I found Rachel not insensible, and I could not but be content with it in my mind. Those whose age can afford them any remembrance, should, methinks, have some solemn thoughts for so irreparable a loss to themselves and family; though after that, I would cherish a cheerful temper in them with all the industry I can; for sure we please our Maker best, when we take all his providences with a cheerful spirit.

Lord Camden hath sent to see me, but whether I shall see him or no, I cannot tell. I find my time is spent, so will put up the Gazettes, and bid you adieu for this time, ever continuing

Your faithful friend to serve you.

My sister Alington, her sister, and daughter Alington, and my brother Robert, have made me a visit of two days. I am thankful, though I wished it longer. I hear Mr. Cheek is put from the Tower, and Sir * * * Hales* in his place.

Stratton, 15 June, 1687.

* Sir Edward Hales, a Papist, had a regiment of foot, and was made Lieutenant of the Tower.

I HAVE just rec'd.
enough it comes to me, this b
sad day that ushered in the gr
life; the same day my dear lor
his house, I entertained the sad
after losing the sight of him for
what the manner of it will be
and unknown to us; it is enou
happy eternally.

I think you judge amiss, g
cause those excellent rules and
me do not fix me in a better
state of comfort, therefore you
have had some useful infuer
quick, and a reflection as soor
presented; also the inconveni
as soon confessed when a re
sent; but we cannot have r
will not, or cannot, being b
collect by memory, and mak
ever doctor, though I

hallow it not by unjustifiable passions ; and having given some hours to privacy in the morning, live in my house as on other days, doing my best to be tolerably composed. It is my first trial ; for all these sad years past I have dispensed with the seeing any body, or till late at night ; sometimes I could not avoid that without a singularity I do not affect. There are three days I like best to give up to reflection ; the day my lord was parted from his family, that of his trial, and the day he was released from all the evils of this perishing world.*

I thank you again, good doctor, for your seasonable prayer. It may be this shall be the last letter I send you from hence, though I stay till Monday se'nnight ; variety of care, and little affairs, it is possible, may prevent other exercises I stand more inclined to. When I come to Woburn, if no sooner, I will again repeat, that I hold myself to be, good doctor,

Your obliged friend and servant.

25 June, 1687.

Miss Montague is with me.

I hope breeding prevents my seeing my sister.

XLIX.

THE PRINCESS OF ORANGE TO LADY RUSSELL.

I DID NOT EXPECT SO MANY THANKS, my lady Russell, as I find in your letter by Mr. Dykvelt, who has said

* Lord Russell was arrested June 26, tried July 13, and beheaded July 21, 1683.

opportunity or ~~.....~~
dread I am as much to seek now ~~as~~
Mrs: Herbert will sooner find one than
to leave this with her, not knowing w
come to you ; but whenever it does, pr
justice to believe; that I have all the
you which so good a character deser
heard given you by all people both
England and since I have been here
had as much pity as any could have of
fortunes you have had, with much mor
when they happen to persons who de
and yet those are they we often see
lucky in the world, as you find by ex
I hope your son will live to be a c
which, under God, I believe will b
can have. As for myself, I can only
-² my lord of Bedford, that I sho

L.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

ctor, I can still but do the same thing over
ank you infinitely for all your good deeds
(I must observe to you how kindly Prov-
will imitate you, and not call it chance)
of your letters to my hands. I read yours
uly on the 20th, the eve of that day—I will
my hand to write, fatal, because the blow
it was that which gave eternal rest to my
friend. I do not contend on these days
nature, but keep her as innocent as I can.
having laid all my sorrows at the foot of
ie of grace, I allow some of the remaining
f my time to what disposes me best to cool
ghts and entertain a tired mind, writing
may do it freely; where my weakness shall
, not censured; yet I shall be short, being
admit an interruption, not a welcome one
lady Sunderland* in her way to Windsor
visit, which I refused not in the afternoon
e. To my best I took the method you
ie, and I must tell you, that when I came
art of your letter, where you put the case,
art tells me so, as indeed it does, I made a

Sunderland, daughter of George Digby, earl of
ho, though a Roman Catholic, in 1673, spoke in
the test bill in general, as proper at that time, de-
mself a Catholic of the church, but not of the
ame.

object of my love all I can ;
and if I may be directed a
cation, what is it I have t
perishing world for myself
believing that I covet, hav
sin.

This must find you at Wi
be the shorter ; I know hc
there. I perceive your bu
rity ; it is a happy thing te
good : may you do so long,
find my sister carrying on a

I will ever remain
Your oblige

21 July, 1687.

LI.

travellers. I wish you all the benefit of the waters you wish yourself; the same I do assure you, sir, in all other occurrences of your life. It seems I must renuit seeing you, as you once kindly intended. When I received your services to them, the lady and mistress of Herseheath were both here; they left us last Thursday, but I guess you may meet them at London, about the beginning of the term. My sister says she intends but a week's stay. I am in expectation to see my niece Digby in her way to Warwickshire; she sends me word she will dine here, and give me a sight of her little boy. Lord Camden and his lady have been at Bremen with their cousin Kingston.* I am told the two cousins agree the country is a dull place in winter. I am easily drawn to believe my lord Gainsborough might be sensible of a change at Titchfield, finding a mistress of it, and remembering those he had known there before; but almost all changes seem strange, yet this world we are so apt to dote upon is a perpetual passing from one thing to another, and rarely to more pleasing objects. But it is our duty to be contented with all—a hard task sometimes, doctor.

I hear the French king, as a finishing stroke, is preparing an edict which all new converts shall sign; though so weak as to have signed before, yet they must now again, how they have been instructed, and are in their hearts convinced of the doctrine and practice of the Roman church, even

* William Pierrepont, earl of Kingston, married Anne, eldest daughter to Robert Greville, lord Brook; and lord Camden, Wriothesley Baptist (afterwards earl of Gainsborough) married Catharine, eldest daughter to Fulk lord Brook, Robert's brother.

over, soon and will
converse no more with them.*

I can easily and with much satisfaction
much time with you, but for expeditious
having an opportunity to send this by o
ing to London, I will add no more than
great truth, that I am

Your faithful sad friend and

5 Oct. 1687.

I have a large bundle of Gazettes &
conveyed to London, but then you are
to read them; so unless you send for
resting place will be at Woburn.

* King James II. provoked at Burnet's per
marks on the earl of Melfort's Letter to the
terian Ministers.—Apology for the Church
"seconds against repealing the Test.—Reflect

LII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

ALTHOUGH your letter, good doctor, is dated 15th October, I read it not till the 20th, having received that with many others so late, I believe it was past midnight before I had done. Yours was not the last, neither; for when I had run over my common and impertinent ones, (such I term compliments of course or feigned ones) I hastened to yours; indeed you make me greater compliments than any body else; but I have no charge against you for doing so; what they exceed in I must bring the accusation against myself. The near and pleasing concern you make the well being of me and mine to be to you, I believe most hearty and sincere, and kindly engages me to great thankfulness; but amongst your choicest expressions, you are induced to say you could rather envy my condition than pity it, from an opinion of being supported and comforted, with a well-grounded persuasion of my having a right and title to those precious promises, that will give a pleasant and perpetual rest to the weary and heavy-laden soul. This, doctor, is perhaps what you mistake in; and I have led you into the error by speaking too well of my own thoughts or exercises, which are truly all mean, and encompassed with uncomfortable weakness; yet I have not the confusion to reflect I have said any thing from a false glory; I should, if I can discern right, wrong *my own heart by it*, and that grace of God which *disposes me*, though in the meanest degree, to ask

perilous, look after; and some more mournful ones; - sadly through the valley of death, I will evil, humbling myself under the mighty hand God, who will save in the day of trouble: knows my sorrows and the weakness of my person.

I commit myself and mine to Him.
I had, as you guess, doctor, the satisfaction of seeing lady Digby, and her prosperous hope she will maintain that house with an honourable and virtuous race. Lord Tiviot has been two days of this week, full fraught with expense of Hampshire, some of them too much a' wishes, which fetched sighs from me. beauty of Providence should reconcile us of dispensations. I have sent a large ^{Gazettes}; and have no other papers, I t

" If I had that which y
Declaration, I "

h the Letter to the Dissenter, vanished, so that I
er read it : that kind of title has kept it in my
id ever since. Your curiosity, doctor, is sure
meless, though very mean are most of the amuse-
nts of a life to endure so little a while, as the
gest is upon earth.

The result of the master of Magdalen College
known to you before this, and will be to us here,
ope, to-morrow.*

igs he had been reported to have said against his lord-
). In good policy we ought to suffer no man to be our
my if we can possibly avoid it; but such was his lordship's
ural disposition, that in the whole course of my life, I
er knew a man more ready at all times to forgive, and
ll never forget his expression upon this occasion—" Sir,
you did not say the words, I am very glad of it; and
n if you did, I am glad you find cause to be of another
d."

In the reign of James II. many pieces were written for
against liberty of conscience ; one in 1685, intitled
*short Discourse upon the Reasonableness of Men's
ag a Religion,*" &c. by George Villiers, duke of Buck-
un. Ralph says, that on 16th April, 1687, he died
elect, and almost obscurity, at his house in Yorkshire ;
rodigal son of a most rapacious father, who was
l with wealth, beauty, parts, dignity, place, and
only to show their eminent insignificancy, when
mpanied with wisdom and virtue. He had above
a year at the Restoration ; at last 2,500*l.* a year
he had left; much too little for his profuse way of
He took with him a company of ruffians into York-
ot money from the tenants by force, was guilty of
t an inn, and died. The family and estate expired
cond generation.—*Oldmixon.*

king ordered the vice-president and fellows of Mag-
llege, Oxford, to choose one Farmer their president.
ed Dr. John Hough (afterwards bishop); the eccle-
ommissioners, with Cartwright, (the time serving

22 Oct. 1687.

We have just heard the very
cess's miscarriage. God comfo

LIII.

TO DR. FITZWILL

It is a reproach to myself, good
not once since you went given
respect; but it has come to p
invincible necessity; nothing
myself, and that I know will
will not soon accuse me of a
to deserve to have laid to my
sir, the great affair you know
up both my time and thought
are met with by the manner

yet not got over : one week more I hope will make me guess at the issue.

This day miss Noel is made a wife, and my girls are but just come from the ceremony ; I should have spoke properly to have said yesterday, for I hear it strike one o'clock, yet I had company would sit to see my girls come home ; and I could not leave this to be written to-morrow, for I am to be in my coach at seven o'clock to dine with my sister Montague at Windsor.

The news most talked of is, the king has sent to call over the English forces out of Holland ; the French papers will tell the rest. The town is full of what you or I have little to do with, balls and rejoicings.* It is time to close this from

Your faithful friend to serve you to my power.

27 Jan. 1667—8.

One o'clock in the morning.

LIV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

JUST after I had retrieved time enough to scribble to you, and enclose some French papers, I received yours of 24th January, which though you would not term it such, I made as a sort of kind reproof ; and indeed I had a guilt upon me, that it might

* On the 23d Dec. 1667, a proclamation issued, appointing the 16th of January to be observed as a thanksgiving for the queen's being with child, within the bills of mortality ; and the 29th of January in the rest of the churches of England.

constant hurry, ...
my duty to my child, and to my
garet Russell,* which, by God's
do as cordially as to my child
many difficulties in both ; yet, i
no stop but such as the forme
which, from any we can learn o
conclusion till he is sixteen.

I thank you, good doctor, f
which, whether I accept or ne
do all in a kind respect to y
sense of your esteem to me an
sorry if I make not use of it
I would take liberty to do.

I trust, if I perfect this g
endeavours will prosper ; onl
what the event shall be ; b
--- of light I did not look

shall be called or not. My boy said at dinner, it is a year of great wars, marriages, and robbing. To make good the second, it is reported lord Halifax is treating for the lord Kent's son, and lady Essex for lord Carlisle's.* Something of both I fancy there is. Some murders here have been, which no doubt have reached you before this will. But there is a private piece of news I know you will be sorry for. Poor lord Gainsborough was seized on Tuesday se'nnight with a dead palsy all on one side; his speech returned quickly, and the last news was, he was much mended, had stirred his leg, but not his arm, and my niece writ they feared he did not see with the eye on that side, but were loath to ask, for fear of disheartening him: if we hear he has passed a week, I hope he may recover to some degree.

Queen dowager's† resolutions for Portugal cannot be new to you: it occasions much talk, her humour and way of living not warning any to suspect she would retire out of the world. Lord Oxford has at last his regiment taken from him.‡ It is said the king told him, he did not do it in regard to his religion, but his factiousness of mind, for his majesty would have the test. The queen goes on prosperously; has seen two plays at Whitehall. Now you have all the reports I can make, I

* Charles Howard, afterwards earl of Carlisle, married lady Elizabeth Capel, only surviving daughter of Arthur, earl of Essex.

† Catharine, queen dowager of Charles II. did not go to Portugal till March 30, 1692.

‡ Aubrey de Vere, earl of Oxford, who died in 1703, without male issue.

10 Feb. 1687—8.

The late audience at C
in their habits as at
Corker & that was tried
here at St. James's or
the Papists have bought
place, and lady Bath's in

L

PRINCESS OF ORANGE

I HOPE my lady Russell w
believe I would not have l

so long without answering, had I not wanted an opportunity of sending mine. But I hope Mr. Russell, who brought me one, will find a way to send this to you, for I can stay no longer from desiring you to make no more excuses for writing. If you knew the esteem I have for you, you would be persuaded your letters could not be too troublesome; and since you will make me believe it is some satisfaction to you, I shall desire you to continue; for I assure you I am extremely glad to contribute any way I can to that. I hope this match of your daughter's will afford you all the joy and comfort you can desire. I don't question but you have made a very good choice; and since I wish so well to my lord Devonshire, I cannot but be glad it is his son, believing you will have taught your daughter, after

intended the prince should be, if she came to the crown; her answer was, that the rule and authority should be his, for she only desired that he would obey the command of "Husbands, love your wives;" as she should do that of "Wives, be obedient to your husbands in all things." King William told archbishop Tennison, that he could not but grieve, since he had lost a wife, who in seventeen years had never been guilty of an indiscretion. She had no relish for those indolent diversions, which are too common consumers of most people's time, and which make as great wastes on their minds as they do on their fortunes. She was a perfect example of conjugal love, chastity, and obedience. By her example, it became as much a fashion among the ladies of quality to work, as it had been formerly to be idle. She thought it a barbarous diversion which resulted from the misfortunes, imperfections, or follies of others. She had read the best books in English, French, and Dutch, which were almost equally familiar to her—but gave the most of her *retired hours* to the reading of the Scriptures, and books relating to them.

esteem I have for you.

Hague, 13 February, 1687--8.

LVI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM

I HAVE read your letter enough to thoughts upon several matters, but do deliberately, or to examine how with you in every point; nor will I till I do; though I never had less time at my own disposal; so that unless I it is very likely I may delay till next with hard difficulties in the lawyer are forced to be with a great many of sion, which is very troublesome at this who would fain be delivered from this my affair, and so put some period to methinks I make in my intended man the rest of my days on earth But I

Letters came out of Holland on Wednesday night, which, in as respectful terms as is possible in that case, refuse to send the troops, saying, they have cost them a great deal, they are threatened on all hands, and know of no capitulation which obliges them to send them, the King being quiet at home and abroad: but if his majesty had occasion, they would soon send them, and many more to his aid; and for such officers as would retire from them, they were at liberty.

I have been told the king should say, Amsterdam had better intentions, but the parts of the States prevailed, who, perhaps, had a mind to quarrel, but seemed to imply he had none. This piece of news I would insert, though I have a man of business by me, whom I must speak to when I have closed this.

Sister Alington has sold her house to lord Bristol, so is kept still in town. Lady Manchester was married last Wednesday to a fourth son* of George Montague, a man of twenty-four; the same was said to have writ the answer to the Hind and Panther. Lord Gainsborough is better. I have writ your compliments this morning to sister Montague.

Next week you shall have the letters you ask for, and the Reflections on the Reformer. I do

* Charles Montagu, afterwards earl of Halifax, descended from a younger branch of the Manchester family; he had the reputation of a fine taste, and of being master of polite literature, as well as an encourager of men of parts and learning. His skill as a speaker and manager were unquestionable; he had a part in writing the *British Merchant*, in opposition to D. De Foe's *Mercator*.—*Tindal*.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Good doctor, take my good will in good part; we're not mightily employed this morning I shan't send you so short a letter, but I enclose Gazettes. I know no news worth sending down the talk is, three new regiments shall be raised lord Salisbury and Abergavenny are talked of. new memorial is sent into Holland concerning forces. Rachel's affair is creeping forward: next, I believe, will tell you more. It is not considerable, but it is very true, that I am dear Fitzwilliam's faithful

And kind friend and servant

2 March, 1687—8.

LVIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

— — — — — the most encouraging, doctor, I ever
had — — — — —

can do more than they are fitted for: my will is with the best I am sure, and my hope is great that I am assisted with the best Director of our minds, and Disposer of all events: so I go quietly on, desire great diligence in all my actions, and expect by that slowness you so well approve of, to discover at one time what I cannot in another, that so I may complete this great work with as few errors as I can reasonably expect to make. I have a well bred lord to deal with, yet inflexible if the point is not to his advantage. I am to meet him this morning at eleven o'clock at the lawyer's chambers, proposing to give a finishing stroke to the agreement between us, and then the deeds will be drawn in a few more weeks, I hope, and this matter perfected. That of lady Margaret is to lord Strafford. God knows there are many exceptions; but the gentleman is a worthy, honest man, and made an indulgent husband to the earl of Derby's daughter. He is afflicted with stone and gout.*

I could not have imagined the accident of the penknife would have proved so bad a business; you must owe it to your own neglect, and your happy and profitable reflections upon it to the goodness of God.

* William Wentworth, earl of Strafford, married first, lady Mary Stanley, daughter to James earl of Derby, who, and lord Strafford's father, were both beheaded: the latter was the greatest subject in power, not less in wisdom, and little less in fortune, at that time in the three kingdoms.—*Brit. Comp.* His second wife was Henrietta Du Roy before-mentioned. The match with lady Margaret Russell did not succeed. (He died in 1695, without issue.) She was married to admiral Russell.

I cannot yet procure a sight of them
than I just took to read them, the 1
being seized. But there is a Treatise
of Idolatry, which eclipses all others
say: if you want it I will send it n
also a Parliamentum Pacificum * w
cried up.

You know my appointment, and v
employed have something to do to r
am undressed at ten o'clock.

Good doctor,

I am ever your faithful friend

Nothing but one so unthoughtfu
forget to thank you for your chee
will not remember one, I know no
our supping company are your serv
16 March, 1687—8.

* Parliamentum Pacificum, or the h
— in an healing Parliament,
— in not an

LIX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

cannot omit this, because I know I shall gain
use, and the best advantages by it: what is our
own interest we are seldom wanting to ourselves
. That which I expect from you, you will know
when I tell you Rachel is now ill of the measles,
which in your best hours, I desire you will remem-
ber, with praises for her hopeful condition: it is
the third day, so I hope the danger is over; but bad
effects so often follow afterwards, my fears still
continue; yet I trust God will direct and bless my
care. I will add no more, but in haste sign a truth
very heartily, that I am

Your constant friend and servant.

23d March, 1697—8.

LX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

It is so late before I sit down to write, that I would
not let it alone, if I did not mistrust doctor Fitzwilliam
as concern enough for me to be uneasy, if I do not
ask him how Rachel does, after having given him
the report of her being ill of the measles. I bless
God for it (with all the powers of my soul) she is
very well freed from that distemper, and yesterday
began to purge. I continue yet parted from the
other two; but, so they are well, I can endure the
absence as well as any body; no more, in this un-

her never now comes, and a want
of temper would make her go to
being very fond. She promised us
if she considers, sure she ought to
is none, and her life irreparable to
and she has a skilful friend by her
trust; and then she can look after
dren. Poor doctor Cligat's wife is
small-pox at doctor Sharpe's house
came as soon as her husband die
removing, having never had them.
but who has the measles or small-
you a book cried up to be very well
has offended the States in a high manner
as it is said, they have desired to
called in. Doctor Burnet, as I hear
has writ a sheet of answer, the man
ever writ yet; nobody but the king
speak as if the queen's going to be
be doubtful.

I am, good doctor,

LXI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

HOUGH I know how very little my letters are worth, yet I regret you had none last Friday, because you looked for it: I meant to have writ the ay before, doubting my want of time on Good Friday; yet my little affairs and care came so fast pon me, I did it not: if I had had a pleasing answer to have given you in respect of your Magdalen college man, I had not failed.

They tell me they are resolved to send a gentleman that is their chaplain now, who they give a reat character to. As to lord Exeter's son, I now little of him: did once hear a gentleman say my lord had such thoughts, but never afterwards. for some reasons I will not set down here, I don't think it proper for me to meddle there.

The princess has miscarried, and the queen much disposed, but is better they say. It is a very barren time for news, except what relates to transctions beyond sea, and that the French or English gazettes inform.

I am full of small affairs, and called away by a gentleman's coming to me.

I am faithfully, good doctor,

Your friend to serve you to my power.

19 April, 1688.

since you will have me believe they
faction to you. I am sure I may le
to consider God's providence in s
to make it easy. I hope you will h
casion to exercise that submission
all that comes from him, in such
formerly; but that the happiness of
and the success of all else you und
you all the content you can desire.
glad I could any way contribute to :
kind, or have an opportunity of sh
I desire to be your friend.

Hague, 21 May, 1688.

LXIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIA

WHEN I tell you, good doctor, the
paper, (that is the immediate one,

good, and God's holy spirit has been my director in this whole affair. I do not ask your prayers; I

of William, who became earl of Devonshire in 1684, who had been a true friend to lord Russell, Burnet says, he had the courage of a hero, with an unusual proportion of wit and knowledge, and a peculiar softness in his exterior deportment. He had been fined 30,000*l.* for striking Col. Culpepper in the verge of the court: king James offered to excuse the fine, but it had no effect on that brave and generous nobleman; he chose rather to expose himself and fortune to the rigour of the court, than to desert the interest of his country in such a time of peril (1688,) so he joined in the undertaking with great readiness and resolution.—

Oldmixon. Ralph says, he was told, that soon after the severe sentence was passed on lord Cavendish, the countess, his mother, who had long absented herself from court, made her appearance in the circle, and having acquainted his majesty that she was come to pay her son's fine, presented him with an acknowledgment, under the hand of king Charles I. that he stood indebted to the father for the like sum that was now to be squeezed out of the son. In 1694 he was created duke, the preamble to his patent setting forth, "That the king and queen could do no less for one who had deserved the best of them—one who, in a corrupted age, and striking into the basest flattery, had constantly retained the manners of the ancients, and would never suffer himself to be moved either by the insinuations or the threats of a deceitful court; but equally despising both, like a true asserter of liberties, stood always for the laws: and we advising with him how to shake off that tyranny, he, with many other peers, drawn over to us by his example and advice, gave us the greatest assistance towards gaining a most absolute victory without blood, and so restoring the ancient rights, religion," &c. William, his son; succeeding in 1701, queen Anne conferred on him his father's places of dignity and trust, with this most gracious expression— "That she had lost a loyal subject and a good friend in his father, but did not doubt to find them both again in the son."—*British Compendium.*

USSELL'S LETTERS.

em, and have them still. Dear
office. And now I take leave
the only letter I shall write to-
yet in some hurry. We all dine
s to-day: one week more will
I trust, to consider of this sad
; to me, though sadly, not un-
lod.

I am your faithful friend.

interrupted me yesterday morn-
ng to put up my letter, to make
of diamond pendants, and stayed
s letter till it was too late; so I
lost.

LXIV.

L. FITZWILLIAM.

ns are very welcome, good doc-
ll give them to my young wo-
dertake they will be so. I trust
for his blessing on her, even to
sh them. We have all the pro-
re (I think) to be had: of those
least, though that ingredient is
rightly. We found difficulty
things dispatched to have the
n it was; and if it had not been
sked doctor Fitzwilliam to have
our dean would have been gone;
I hurried it off, being in great

taste to go to the Bath, and had the writings sent out on Tuesday night out of town to be signed by lord Exeter* and lord Gainsborough, here again on Thursday morning early enough for them to be married, because we could get no licence to do it in the afternoon. I do not justly remember any expression I have used that intimated my opinion of your hard thoughts of that state, which undoubtedly affords the sweetest comforts of life, or the bitterest sorrow of it. No indeed, doctor, I have only thought you had respect for a single state of life, when persons remained so by choice; and all your part in the course of your life, I have ever considered as acted and directed by true piety.

As early as my mournful heart can, I will pass over those sad days, which, at the return of the year, will, let me struggle all I can, set more lively than at other times, sad objects before my sight; but the reviving hope of that immortal life my dear friend is already possessed of, is my best support.

This very solemnity has afforded me, alas! many a thought I was forced to check with all my force, they making me too tender; though in retirement they are pleasant: and that way I can indulge myself in at present. Sure, if departed souls know what we do, he approves of what I have done; and it is a reward upon his children, for his patience and so entire submission during his sufferings.

* John Cecil, earl of Exeter, married Anne, daughter to William Cavendish, earl of Devonshire, as Edward earl of Gainsborough did lady Russell's sister.

LXV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM

WHETHER I say little or find it
am not easy in my mind if I do; to
to good doctor Fitzwilliam once
examine justly, I believe it may be
terest than I am apt to think in
it is a sort of trading I get extrem
come it brings is very valuable to
next letter will be particularly so;
friendship is very remarkable in
times and seasons in your mind
to do me good, if that is to be done
it, and use it as a help, and part
tainment in these my most sad days;
own there is a sort of secret deli
of one of those mournful days; the
better reason, one is, that I do not

I do on other days ; for, God knows, my eyes are ever ready to pour out marks of a sorrowful heart, which I shall carry to the grave, that quiet bed of rest.

I shall deliver all your compliments. I find they must wait one other life for that estate, and be content with a legacy of 200*l.* at present to buy mourning.

The French papers will give you more news than can write, unless of so late a date as Wednesday, when the two judges Holloway and Powell were put out ; who were such cross fellows as not to suffer ix or twelve charters, that were to be destroyed that morning, to be so, putting by the consideration o the next term ; so they lie undetermined.* There were four judges ; two drew one way, two the other ; and so no judgment could be given. There are several conjectures concerning the bishops, but I write only matter of fact : and therefore say nothing of any new converts are like to be, only that the lord president is one, and has carried the torch, and asked pardon for his heresy. Lady Essex's daughter was married yesterday to the lord Carlisle's son, a young ride, like mine at home. Mrs. Alington has been in town, I hear, for two or three days, but I saw her not ; she is gone down with lady Dorset to nowls, lord Dorset's house, near Tunbridge. I am called away. Sir,

Your obliged friend and servant.

6th July, 1688.

* In less than a week after the bishops were acquitted, king struck Holloway and Powell off the list of judges, a public mark of his displeasure.—*Ralph.* Perhaps their want of compliance in the affair of the charters, was partly the cause of their being dismissed.

that I had not my mean ordinary com
things. For an instance to you, I cou
last of the 5th find where you were ;
saw, but did not see the W. before the
do not wonder at, from the badness o
reading hastily ; but I do, that by you
it, I should not find you at Windsor,
I did not, nor guessed at it, till sis
told me at nine o'clock at night you
did as soon resolve to send you a li
was defeated ; company I found at ho
and business, when rid of them ; so
time my own all day, when I heard
o'clock I went to bed, hoping for a
morning ; but though I rise at five,
of none : at half an hour past six v
coach, and which I was the more ca
cause lord Bedford, who went earl
dinner for me ; we drove so well t
that night, I bless God, we got all w

ever in this life press me sorely. That I have not sunk under the pressure, has been I hope in mercy, that I might be better fitted for my eternal state; and form the children of a loved husband before I go hence. With these thoughts I can be hugely content to live; and the rather as the clouds seem to gather and threaten storms; though God only knows how I may acquit myself, and what help I may be, or what example I shall give to my young creatures: I mean well towards them, if I know my heart. I wish I could advise you substantially, to the end you ask it for about a lawyer. I know few, and made use of but one, who appears to me an ingenious and honest man: it is Mr. Evers of Lincoln's-Inn; but he is so exceeding full of business, it makes him slow to dispatch; he seems to me to be a man of integrity, and I think not a high church-man in his principles. I give the hint, that if you should happen to converse with him, you may know the better how to do it without distaste.

You caution me to mollify, by a right construction, any expression of yours that may be hardly worded: you need not do it; for if at any time there should be cause (as I know none), I shall not fail to do as you desire, who in all things will endeavour to appear

Your most grateful friend and servant.

19th July, 1688.

If you call here, you will be very welcome.

LXVII.

TO LADY ALINGTON.

I PERCEIVE, sister, you are very tender in regard to the persons of others, but rigid to your own self, or you would never imagine a remaining guilt where I fancy there was never any; for I can either allow myself to think my brother in some fault, or have such a deference to your judgment as to believe there was none any where. However it was, my request was not scorned, and so my end was served, and I am yours with great respect, and very sorry you have had any new interruption in your health; I learn from my lord Bedford it was accidental, by putting ice to a wrong use. I take it to be an ingredient almost as dangerous in a family as ratsbane, servants being so ill judges of its use. The good consequence of country air, I believe, would be as much advantageous to you, if you would take it, as we shall find it: the season is temperate and pleasant. The rest and pensive quiet of it is very grateful to me, whose body nor mind is fitted for the hurry of the last six months; and I wish I may so profit of the time I may make my own here, as to repair in some measure my want then, by being so busy in worldly matters. Yet it was such a duty, and in appearance I was so blessed in it, that this reflection was sometimes a refreshment to me, that I did not live only to grieve at, and be humbled, for those heavy chastisements my soul has felt and must still feel till my eternal rest, where we shall weep nor

sorrow no more. I am so apt to exceed all bounds when I let myself loose on some subjects, that nothing can recover me, but a short breaking off, which I will do, with this assurance of my being
Your humble servant and sister.

25th August, 1668.

LXVIII.

DR. TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

HONOURED MADAM,
I RECEIVED yours the night before I was going for Tunbridge, at my return from whence I did fully design to have sent a line or two to have inquired after the welfare of your ladyship and your children; but I see it is in vain to contend with a goodness which doth always prevent the most forward of your friends and servants. I am now newly returned from thence, where I left the good princess very well, and I think much better than ever I saw her. That very evening I parted from your ladyship at the tabernacle, I received by two messengers, two letters from my wife, who in the first told me she feared my child was dying, which troubled me much; in the other that she was perfectly well, which amazed me more. Thus it was—when the child was grown very weak, all on the sudden there gushed from her head down her nose with great violence a good quantity of water, which brought along with it a pretty big piece of cork, which either the child herself, or one of her little brothers had thrust up into her nose, where it had remained above six weeks; by the stoppage and pain whereof

ing, which I told your ladyship did all
child into grievous agonies, was by God
vidence very happy for the child, because
probably have forced up the cork so far,
not have been got down.

I came to town on purpose two or
after, to have prevented your ladyship
trouble of searching out the papers, :
most humbly thank you, and have no o
to call for them. But I found your la
the day before ; and now it is time to c
letter, and to tell your ladyship how gl
hear that all your family are well, ai
meet with some rest after your toil and
business, from which I heartily pray t
your good daughter may reap all the c
satisfaction that you can wish, and th
sent appearances of things seem so fa
mise. But I need not tell to your la
little reckoning is to be made of any of t
of this world All our hopes but those

I pray God to preserve my lord Cavendish in his travels from the hazards of all kinds to which he is likely to be exposed, and to return him to you and to his excellent lady greatly improved in all true, noble, and virtuous qualities. My mind doth pre-sage much happiness to you in him; I am sure I earnestly wish it. I will not forget your commands of congratulation when I see my lord. As for my friend* who is so mindful in the midst of his prosperity of his old friends, I beg of your ladyship, when you have the opportunity, to let him know that I have a true sense of his constant friendship. For the paper he mentions, I believe it is well received generally on both sides.† For men's heats are much allayed, and they have now patience to hear of their faults, if they be told them in a civil way, without anger and ill-will, as that paper does with great skill, considering the nicety and tenderness of the subject. So that, if it hath not fully pleased both, it hath the good fortune to have provoked neither. It is too much according to my mind for me to be fit to commend it. I will only say this of it, that it is both very artificial, and very honest—two things which seldom meet together.

I ought now to make a long apology for this long trouble I have given you, but I will not, in excuse of one fault, commit another.

I pray God to preserve you and yours, and to send

* Supposed to be doctor Fitzwilliam.

† Sam. Johnson's Way to Peace among all Protestants, &c.

Canterbury, 6th Sept. 1686.

LXIX.

TO LORD CAVEN

I DESIRE this may assure you
furnished the last post with the
entertainment I can receive by it
better content in this world than
your so near relation to us has

kind to you, and value our being
your person, which it does

a passion no words can tell
if ever I have an opportunity

Your news is of great
concerns, and it is to my
well pleased

LXX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

If you could, good doctor, see the letter I left in my closet at London, it would be a demonstration to you, that no hasty or irregular motion puts my friends out of my mind; for though I failed in the executive part, yet I was not careless in that took up more of my time. I very formally writ my letter, laid by the Gazettes, and then, as in our best endeavours we often do spoil all by some defect in the close, so did I now, by forgetting to give my letter to be sent to you.

I was but two whole days in town, went on Saturday, was early back on Tuesday, found all here well, as I bless God I left them, and all at London in amaze, all talking of the same matter; and I believe there is no considerable change since, for it was then agreed the prince of Orange could not be ready for sailing till this day. This sort of weather and wind keeps the apprehensions at a distance, and if it continues any time, may possibly disperse them altogether; but it is known to God alone what shall be the event of these things. We may wonder, and heartily say, his ways are unsearchable, and past finding out.

Those are happy, who in the midst of confusions can faithfully believe the end of all shall be rest; and if we can evidence to our hearts, we have a title according to the promises of the Gospel, to that happy rest, what can be a very uneasy disturbance? Nothing should be, I am certain; yet we find pre-

~~Our~~
to exceed; and so ~~we~~.

5th Oct. 1668.

LXXI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

Such letters as yours, sir, do
but quiet my disturbance. B
mine of the 5th does not misc
will tell you another did anoth
I wanted not yours to draw
I forgot when I writ on
Gazettes, nor are they entit
to London put me and the
of late date are wanting.
back, as it does, as the ki
distance from us. Thus w
much God can restrain t
in the winds.

I have scarce had time to run over your philosophical lecture, but I suppose if I had, or when I have read it at more leisure over, I shall not find myself very well furnished to use many words in my answer; now I have none, for my letters are called for, and the company come into my chamber, which I keep for a great cold. I have been complaining in most of my letters, how near to nothing I am when this poor carcase is diseased, so very feeble in my mind and body; but I mend my opinion of myself now I read how listless you are upon such another occasion. I am glad yours is near over; mine is but begun, nor would my letter be more I think, if I had time to enlarge. The *Anatemy of an Equivalent* is the newest good paper I know; I have been lent it only to read, and have it not any more.*

sion was taken off. 3 Oct. the king having desired the advice of the archbishop of Canterbury, nine bishops attended him with ten articles, as the best means to restore his affairs. In consequence of which, the ecclesiastical commission was dissolved, popish magistrates were displaced, and an order for restoring Magdalen college to its rights, and a proclamation for restoring the charters of corporations.—*Salmon.*

* Of the *Equivalent*, Ralph says, when the king undertook to soften the clergy with the promise of an Equivalent, he as effectually deceived himself as he designed to deceive them. Churchmen can have no equivalent for wealth, power, dignity, and importance; and they knew by themselves, that if the priests and partisans of Rome ever procured themselves a legal establishment in the constitution, they would not bear the shadow of a rival. The marquis of Halifax employed his excellent pen against the *Equivalent.*

MY LORD,

As yours writ 16th Oct. has
so I may say, and justify the
as often been desirous to
these marks of respect and r
but I will not by insignific
waste of so precious a thi
misapent, can never be recov
be recalled and if employ
doubt not but it is, you ar
moment of it, to the honor
of many-years: and that yo
be so rewarded for your in
the strongest wish of my
constant prayers to the g
to us his creatures.

I am glad that in your e
your stay at Brussels) you
a companion as lord Ki
when I do not urge you

we can be. It is very true the circumstances of our beings do sometimes require our better diligence and watch over ourselves, than at other times; and it is now going to be so with your lordship: you are launching into the ocean; if you steer wisely, you secure a calm for your whole life; you will discern the vanity of all the pomps and glories of this world; how little intrinsic good there is in the enjoyment! and how uncertain it is how long we shall enjoy that good there is in them! And by observation, you will be made sensible how much below the dignity of human nature it is to gain one's point, let the matter be what it will, by any mean or insincere way.

Having proved all, I hope you will choose the best, and take under your care the whole compass of virtue and religion.

Oct. 1688.

LXXIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

My good intention has been hid from you, good doctor, by my letter, &c. failing to come to your hands, which I sent the 21st of this month, as I find it upon record in my noted paper; there is nothing lost by it, except that mark which writing gives of my respect towards you; and that you do not question, I believe.

We in the country are still kept under wonder and expectation; the cloud is very thick that is spread over us; but that is our support (if we can but maintain our courage for a while) that nothing

Then shall we see
condemned with the world;
wait with patience.

I have told you before, if
come to you, that lord Bedf
move from this place, if th
wards, to Chenies, in Bucki

I hear lord Cavendish is
says, he has much of my los
who being there, will stay
more from hence. God hav
is the prayer of

Yo

28th October, 1688.

The duchess of Somerse

LXX

TO LADY /

le first; and I hope the time you are to pass in imperfect state will be so happy to you, that he various events of a changing world, you that survive the few remaining days I have in it, shall still have cause to be glad, not with you. If wishes were not unprofitable, ld contribute towards it; and think myself considerable to do it any other way, except two unworthy prayers, which ate ever pre-before the throne of grace for good to all ends, in which number I sincerely desire I ad you, and that you will receive as such

Dear sister,
Yours affectionately.

LXXV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

ery sorry the motion you made me about was not for yourself, and that by my re-it, I might at such a time as this have had ortunity of doing you some little service ; as purely upon that consideration I accepted it ; and being it was not so, I am glad the was not met with, lest my expression in the was not clear to you, who seemed to under-ae as if I would still deal in the things, by it may rest till you hear from her, or see easily believe my thoughts might be confused gree that I could speak nothing plain ; for if you would have understood that my saying,

ble I must
excused from it, since it
mind you want more advice
was to lay in provision before
honest to yourself, a caution
meet with; but upon my
taint the phrase; nay, I can
you are not honest to yo
give over, only to repeat
good my point, " Too much
have rambled the more, b
confined not to speak of
bent to be talking of."

The use you would (in
my gallery to, you may, s
part, I don't think that
chosen: it is too much
that is left to your cons

I wish you very heart
concerns, little and gre
at^{al} kindness,

LXXVI.

TO THE EARL OF STRAFFORD.

MY LORD,

I have very justly obeyed the commands of your lordship's last letter, 30th October, both to my lord Bedford and my sister; and had not failed sooner to have made my report of doing so to your lordship, and with what sentiments they received your valuable esteem, and so resolved an affection as you express; but I had put my letter into lady Clinton's hands before I had shewed it to my lord Bedford, and so stayed for its return to me, which that good lady took care it should do, with some advantage, sending with it a particular how the money for Stowell was disposed of. I believe I might accidentally induce her to it, though my words did not require it; which were only, that if the money was not so paid, as that the portion would clear the jointure, I foresaw a rock not to be got over, if times should so settle, that business of such a nature could proceed. And truly, my lord, I think discouragements do visibly wear

but the storm rather increases, that will not admit of leisure for dispatches of this nature. I am charged with more respectful compliments from my lord Bedford than I know how to express; and when our troubles are, by the power and mercy of God, less violent, I shall watch the time to please your lordship in my reports, better than it has been my fortune of late to do, though I have at all times equally desired to approve myself.

25 November, 1688.

It is fit your lauys...
letter, and the enclosed, w
looked for, the meaning I ha
what blocks I feared might b
difficulties might be surmoun
watchful a friend to leave any
may be of the least use. I h
husbanded, though I want skil
the portion may discharge.

But, madam, nothing, I th
casion a resolution for a trea
hangs too heavy. I have
lord, and hope he will not
of

25 November, 1688.

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LADY RUSSELL.
VOL. II.



CONT'D.
PUBLISHED BY THE CROWN AND COUNTRY,
1810.



TOME
LETTERS
OF
LADY RUSSELL.
VOL.II.



LONDON,
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1819.



LADY RACHEL RUSSELL'S LETTERS.

LXXVIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

TRULY, good doctor, you are very condescending, to take my pretending to advise in so good part; I thought I had a good assurance you would do so, or I should not have been so free, being nobody abounds less in their own sense than I believe I do; but where I wish well, and suppose it will be well taken, I speak freely. I was not apt to think you ever were vain or lavish in your own layings out, only, perhaps, not restraining enough in very allowable expenses; nay commendable ones in another age; but the prospect at home called upon us to provide: yet, while I am reflecting thus wisely, I feel who wants severe reproof, and cannot draw up so unblameable a particular as you have taken the pains to do; but however it is, we can only do our best for the time to come; and I pray God to put the same earnest care into the hearts of all the people of this nation. There is no time so hazard-

as I question not but _____

It was surprising to hear of the presenting herself,* but one hears every day which is so, that unless one would write it is not easy to enter on the subject of ; yet it being more difficult to rest on a will conclude this from

Your ever affectionate friend and

30 November, 1688.

LXXIX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I wish you prosperous, good doctor, in economy, and hope it is so far off before that it is too early to begin, more decently prudent; since, I trust, we reasonable prospect to believe such as may live, and enjoy what is their own.

So great a change has appeared in

..... Dunhamaster

among us, to the comfort of every serious and thoughtful Christian. It is a time, I confess, one ill be very glad to spend some hours in free course with a friend there is no need to disguise thought before; when it is denied, one must content as one can.

I think, having stayed so long in the country, the hurly burly, we shall try it a little longer. Carriers and coachmen that come from the North, inform us many gentlemen in the North are armed, all horse; that in Yorkshire they may have 10,000 as soon as they please; but they are all except horse; and that many Papists were into Hull. This night's letters signify the surring of that place, and declaring for a free parliament.*

I am, sir, and ever to continue such,
Your faithful friend and servant.

December, 1688.

We have now got Gazettes again, so have sent them; though you hear too much, perhaps, to read where you are.

The earl of Danby made himself master of York; and Copley surprised Hull, and seized lord Langdale, governor, a Roman Catholic; lord Delamere did good service in the North; the earl of Devonshire at Derby, and Berwick declared for a free parliament.

BECAUSE I THINK A ~~WORD~~

suade myself that my writing a few lines, as a testimony of my grateful remembrance, and full respects, will not be tedious to you, I can to send it, as often as I can find ways to the "nay, I have, I may say, created this, since the ~~l~~ of it has no other errand than to carry this ~~l~~ and return charged, I hope, with such good news as every good soul wishes for. Curiosity is too eager, and therefore not to be justified, sure it is unavoidable.

I do not ask you should satisfy any part further than you can in six lines; but I would something of your hand-writing upon the ground, and not read in print only, the last your brain. Here has of late been some laid to your charge, (as + much justice you receive, that the world no a dull one upon you. I will consider the pass of a letter is too narrow to contain all I find to say to you; and you are too busy

... as reading my er

of them, and ever full of praise to God, and
yours for the visible Mover, that causes so mighty
revolution as we see; and how much greater
it like to be if they go on blessed, and carry
cause they so gloriously manage with a happy
ress.

December 8, 1688.

LXXXI.

LADY RUSSELL TO • • •

The suspense we have been under was very tedious; every day hoped you would have found some way other to let me hear from the quarters you are, but I believe a prudent caution has kept me ignorant.

I am certain my best wishes have attended him u went away with from hence; and, as I apprehend, he has been prosperous to his desires, and I ge he will ever be so. If I could see how I could more than wish or pray for it, I would readily like it appear how faithfully I would serve him d his interests.

What you may write or tell the messenger who tugs you this, will be very acceptable; and much ore to see you, and lead you the three mile walk, hich I would walk again upon that condition, ough I have not done it since I walked it with n. I suppose you are at all times better emloyed than you will be in reading this paper; for ur ease, not my own, I close it from

Your, &c.

8 December, 1688.

since I purposely read the last verse
Psalm, I have had more mind to scri-
lines to you than I ever had in my life
any hope I have to speak any thing will
my thoughts are too much crowded to
sage to express what I feel. My religi-
country are dear to me, and my own ha-
ever be as a green wound. I need say
you. I have been but too impatient to
I have fancied it a sort of guilt not to
want of ingenuity not to find an opportu-
met it not till now. If I had writ two
I had had something to say from se-
friends that would be loss to your tin-
I will only say the words of one wh
you then desired concerning a shee-
writ.* They were these—"I know
commend what is so exactly my own s-
words I could have been glad to have s-

the first consternation was upon some for what has since fallen out, which is marvellous indeed! Those who have lived longest, and therefore seen the most change, can scarce believe it is more than a dream: yet it is indeed real, and so amazing a reality of mercy, as ought to melt and ravish our hearts into subjection and resignation to Him who is the dispenser of all providences.

1608.

LXXXIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You have since I saw you, good doctor, so shifted places, that my letters cannot find you. I writ to Windsor, when you were gone to Cotenham, and yesterday I directed to Cotenham: at night I heard upon what melancholy account you were gone from hence to poor lady Gainsborough's.* I imagine my compassionate temper, and true Christian disposition to mourn with them that mourn (which we had full proof of) will not let you quit that treasured family. So soon as this will reach you, so kind to me as to say something to my lady: I own all you can say that is kind and respectful and suitable to her present circumstances: consider her as one has been a blessing to the family; she must have known much sorrow and in it, but she cannot miss a reward for her works; as to herself, I have ever esteemed

person.

* Edward, earl of Gainsborough's death.

their provision.

Parliament news can be nothing before
then the house of commons are to take
the nation into consideration,* and the
on Tuesday.

I must repeat a question to you I
letter yesterday. It was to ask you if
that you ordered me to lay down four
you towards the redemption of some
testants taken going into Holland, and
in Algiers. They are now redeemed, for
or five, and the rest proposers. My co
has paid the money, and I am to gat
burse him the greatest part, if I can.
time since writ to lord Camden for
tion, and he bid me lay down for him,
was not come till now; so I will remi
in a few days, but I think it not fit ye
sent circumstances. I will add no
time, from

Your true friend &

LXXXIV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

DOCTOR,
you a thousand thanks for taking so very
of me all my impertinences, as most others
all them; but a good meaning excuses all to
nan. I do so little doubt of my interest to
u, in the point you ask, at any time, that
ou urge the dispatch of it, I will defer the
n of it. I cannot now stay to expostulate
ould do so; but, in short, a hasty asking
rm, and be thought to be an occasion of
others on the same: and, perhaps, also be-
i woold use the liberty you ask, accidents
dicate your opinion. The reason of my
expecting every minute doctor Lower to my
r Cavendish, who was taken ill last night,
aner, if she had not had the small-pox, one
ness she would have it. My sister Monta-
n has been so too, that I forbore seeing him,
erday that fear passed over.

I am, very faithfully,

Your friend to serve you to my power.

day, March 16, 1688—9.

r the doctor's coach.

LETTERS.

FAX.

I humble request you
is, and how I am en-
to read the letter, you
address will tell the
the world from my
in your lordship, and
take such as yourself
rwhelmed with busi-
esist a friend I love so
ing her so heartily in-
s; and both the ladies
t this would be most
hip would act in it. I
your lordship to do so,
had the honour to hear
eadily and gladly serve
a disconsolate enough,
efreshment to please a
btaining this suit would
has a great esteem for,
of it. Sir William is
p. My lady Shaftsbury
that if she had believed
ly from herself to your
better to her purpose,
eparate from this; but
g, I thought we might
r, because the shortest

from
this

F.

for
the
gent
good
anot
unde
him
well

Yo
sol
ton
ve
va
to
h:
g
w
t
c

ble to your lordship.—An apology added to all
, would begin another from

Your lordship's most humble servant.

S. 1688—9.

efore I attempted to move this request to your
ship, I tried what Pollexfen could object against
fitness of it. He made no objection as to the
leman, but, as many others do, gave him a very
l character; yet, as it is in all trades not to help
her to a shop to work in, said, it might be the
sing young men. His friends are secure in
, and that others, as well as he, have done very

LXXXVI.

TO LORD HALIFAX.

Y LORD,
must needs be so well acquainted with the
itudes most persons have in such affairs as
h them very near, that you will not think it
strange, lady Shaftsbury and I have been pre-
ed upon by Mr. Cowper's* friends once again
ress your lordship to weigh his case, and serve
in it if it may be. If his majesty, when he
ted this request in the behalf of Mr. Cowper,
pleased (as I understood from your lordship)
xpress his sense of that favour as a thing extra-
inary, and to make the irregularity of it an in-

William, afterwards earl Cowper, and lord chancellor.
led October 10, 1723.

point, though
eminent disinterested persons ..
the law are of a contrary opinion; and
quent instances that are given of its having
done before, seem rather to prove it has been
as an encouragement for young gentlemen
the king in that difficult profession, and is likely
quently is most proper for such, and is likely
duce such to qualify themselves to serve the
and country with more honour and integrity
persons whose first steps and advances in the
teach them shifting. But, to lay our partiality aside,
I think we may say, that it is hard to guess
the king has given the place to Mr. Cowper,
the notion of its being irregular in respect
age, what worse representations the committee
can have made of him to the king; except
mistaken the matter of fact, and told him
that a man of twenty-four is under age,
his majesty has found is not uncapable
actions.

... strange inconveniences

to inquire into. Mr. Cowper says, "That if testimony of able and worthy men of the same ~~mission~~ to the contrary of their suggestions will ~~prove~~ the obstructions they have laid to his ma-^rs grace, he is able to produce them ;" though of the same profession are naturally not very ard in those offices.

be readiness your lordship has expressed to un-
ake this matter, first in compliment to lady
tsbury and myself, and since to the family,
es it unnecessary to urge zeal. I deliver mine
submission to your judgment; that advantages
/ thing it undertakes.

Your lordship's, &c.

LXXXVII.

TO SIR H. POLLEXFEN,

ATTORNEY GENERAL.

AT^rI offer in this paper to Mr. Attorney General, could with a better will do personally, if I were very sure it would be very much more a trouble to tell you in your chamber my true joy for eminent station you are in, and that the reason are so is because you are worthy of it ; which , I hope, be the prevailing rule in this our new ld ; though I must think there has been a re already in the person of one about you, who red some discourse to me when I was last with . I have done all you desired of me then ; and I have practised silence under long sufferings, n do so in any case : the day of consolation I

council. It is very true you ...
thing, though you spoke well of the man
your exceptions seemed to me to be especia
regard to young gentlemen ; that it was no
visable, proving for the most part a ruin to
His friends persisting in their desire, taking
rancour from his temper he would do well,
Shaftsbury and myself so engaged in it, th
the means of lord Halifax, we obtained the
promise ; and Mr. Cowper kissed the king's
for it. Lord Shrewsbury* gave the warrant
now it stops at the commissioners of the grea
and as they tell me, because Mr. Attorney
contented at it. I am sorry if it is so ; and
business had not proceeded so very far, I

* Charles Talbot, earl, afterwards duke of Shre
(son to Francis, who was killed in a duel by the
Buckingham in 1667, and brother to John, killed
by Henry duke of Grafton) after mortgaging his
remitted 40,000*l.* to the prince of Orange, went to
and drew with him several other persons of hor
he was by king WI

it. But the reflection will be very heavy
r. Cowper, and not easy to my lady Shaftes-
bury myself; as for a favour to us the king ex-
-he did it, and after some difficulty at the
rity of it.

I consider, Mr. Attorney, all dispensing
are not unlawful. I undertake very few
and therefore do very little good to people;
not love to be balked, when I thought my
passed; and though you would not promote
I hope you will not destroy us.
e know, if you please, how it stands, and
can be inexorable to the earnest solicitudes
ther, who I must bring to you. I know not
say more, but that I am sorry they were
de to hope for it; lady Shaftesbury and I

Yours, &c.

LXXXVIII.

TO LADY ESSEX.*

I read your ladyship's obliging, and so very
letter on Sunday, I must say why I have
ted on you since; it is because I was then
both the next days to be out of town; yet
of them I endeavoured the same perform-
am now about, but still broke off by slight
voidable interruption less acceptable than
ince it might hazard my seeming to receive

beth, widow of Arthur, earl of Essex, daughter of
Percy, earl of Northumberland.

your ladyship's kindness and your
cordial respect that I do, and never will
bear I could take nothing so or little in
you, I assure you, madam; you should
of my good will. But, alack! I might
have opportunity to do what I did
in doing, at most certainly to some
degree I could help to make the world
by so long and so constant a friend
body, console you with grief, and
mourn with you at the new灾害
you have so deeply drunk out of
madam, be careful you do not ex-
tend to your own wrong. . . . which
which has so long possessed your I
lieve, to turn the darkest side too
sore not skinned is soon made to
shrink when any thing comes near
were touched, though really it is no
may be your case at present. Re-
in your own innocence, madam;
worthy can slander you in the
thoughts, much less sir H. C. who
most secure in his own merit. All
in your letter, are perfectly new to
consent to say the same thing you
of them.

In what I can serve the just &
will be very diligent. And I beseech
to speak peace to our afflicted mind
be disappointed of our great hope
wait for our day of consolation till
away; an mankind and trustees w/
to us. Why it has been stuck, & cut

his dispensations serve the end of his providences ; and they are ever beautiful, and must be good, and good to every one of us ; and even these dismal ones are to us, if we can bear evidence to our own souls that we are better for our afflictions ; which God often makes them to be who suffer wrongfully. We may reasonably believe our friends find that rest we yet bat hope for ; and what better comfort can your ladyship or I desire in this valley of the shadow of death we are walking through ! The rougher our path is, the more delightful and ravishing will the great change be to us.

Wednesday, 19 March, 1688—9.

LXXXIX.

TO * * *

SIR,

THOUGH I am personally a stranger to you, yet that disadvantage does not discourage me from presenting to your consideration a young gentleman, who is very solicitous I would do so ; and being a man of quality, (and his father the earl of Anglesey, my uncle* by marriage) I was not willing to refuse his request, which he does urge very powerfully with me, because very modestly and reasonably. His father has left him very destitute, and, as he says, he thinks he should be wanting to himself if he did not seek to obtain an honest livelihood ; so I think too.

* Lady Elizabeth Manners, daughter to John earl of Rutland, married James Annealey, earl of Anglesea.

He aims at clerk of the presentati
says is not honestly worth more at
200*l.* a year. He believes himself q
fit execution of it, and if you find
would be no more willing than yourse
accepted of, being I would have all
blessed change of times given to t
most fit to execute them ; and theref
hear the universal approbation of t
posed in you, which I wish you a l
of as,

Sir, your faithful :

22 March, 1688—9.

XC.

TO THE EARL OF STRAFF

MY LORD,
I AM ashamed to name the date of y
last, it being so long since as the 8th
have really deferred from a desire fir
an opportunity of speaking largely a
my lord of Bedford ; yet I cannot com
either at his own house or mine : he
pany, or his age requires rest as soon
engaged. The last discourse I had t
ject, he told me he had writ to your
spoke very desponding of the matter
gret, giving a high and just esteem
ship, and all your procedure throughou
treaty. Indeed, my lord, I must for
my opinion, that my lord Strafford
gress from all the rules that honou

by ; what cause soever he may have of complaint, he is secure never to be complained of ; and if your lordship knew my part in this whole business, I should not fear being judged by you. I have, to my mean judgment, observed my equal way of dealing which I intend in all my dealings and actions in this wretched world ; and have been very careful not to fail where I find so true honour, and for many other reasons, pay so profound a respect as I do to your lordship. But I am safe in your lordship's just understanding and knowledge of the world, that you will agree my relation obliges me to be tender in the urging things of such a nature as this. And I can say there has been all the kind dispositions to this affair, that your lordship could expect, and when there was such I was most ready to use my endeavours to serve both families ; and though there continues the same respect, yet unhappy accidents forbidding a close, I am to acquiesce. And though your lordship, in great generosity, seems to imply as if you would reject any advantageous offer, and wait this new storm passing over, I cannot join with you in that : as I suppose you would not bind her, so you should not yourself, who I sincerely wish may ease the present pressure of your affairs by some happy lot.

I am, my lord,

Your lordship's most faithful humble servant.

26 March, 1669.

I WILL F...

well as any body can do, and ~~the~~...
zeal desire you may live long to do much
the station you are by the mighty provid
God now placed in. But indeed I had rese
saying of this till we had met, if this was n
burdened with another errand.—You know
not frequent nor very impertinently impo
with my solicitations, yet sometimes I am p
upon, when I both wish the person was s
and approve of the matter of solicitation.
assistance you can give it, you will best kn
you see the request. The gentleman is
son my lady Anglesey has; I refer his cha
the dean of Canterbury or Dr. Sharp; the
sure you will hear it from; he is a man c
his father has left him very destitute, a
says, he should be very wanting to himself;
not seek to obtain an honest livelihood;
too, and for that reason would assist !
power. This application to you he req
... ~~he~~ urges it very powerfully, b

ould not discharge them with both honesty and understanding.

I am, &c.

5 April, 1669.

XCH.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

LOOKED in vain for your calling here in your way to Cotenham; that which I desired it most for (though I love your company at all times) was to have discoursed you about the pass for your going broad. I took the opinion of a gentleman you think well of, and meet here often. He agreed with me that it could not miss at any time; however, some time since that, the doctor I think to do it by, being with me, I asked his opinion, that if I should perceive I should gratify a friend of mine by obtaining such a liberty, being in his power, whether he thought it would be hard to be obtained, or would assist me in it? He replied, he should be very sorry at the thing; it would not look well, unless some young gentleman went at the same time, and so it might be alleged he would see him placed abroad, or desired to spend some time with; something of this kind would give it a grace, but he believed there would be no cause to enforce any one's desire to be absent. So I left it till I know more of your mind in it. I cannot imagine but by them or some other, I shall not fail to serve you in your own way, yet I would not defer it without your thinking I do so, lest I should be disappointed when I try, for there is no certainty in this poor world.

dead. Possibly your friendship ...
need may have carried you thither, and
miss you, and every thing I can put in
before you read it, that I will not say.
My sister Alington is in town, and miss
come last night. I am told my niece l
this week or the next.

I am, good doctor,
Your affections

5 April, 1689.

XCIII.

TO THE EARL OF STRAFFE

MY LORD,
YOUR lordship's of the 2d of April
der very great obligations of a perp
ledgment both of your kind acce
in the wh

taken so deep and so obliging impressions of our mind, and with so much constancy and fidelity pursued, to the eternal engagements of all able and most respectful acknowledgments amily whose sentiments must be mine: con-
ly I must always be your lordship's humble
; and as such, as much as in a just pursuance
inciple I would never depart from, if I speak
must speak clearly, and not doubtfully, if I
nd no doubt remains; and indeed, my
all the judgment I can make here, it is so
case, yet without abating any part of that
esteem and honour my lord of Bedford has
hed in his heart and thoughts of your lord-
ut the bad state of Ireland * does so affect
it he is satisfied he should give his daughter,
she was so or not, a just cause to complain
ot consider her whole interest, if he should
her no better provision of fortune than your
's present circumstances can make for her.
, I wish your lordship a true prophet,
few months may recover Ireland: and I do
rticularly for your lordship's share in it, as
that is, with great respect,

Your lordship's

Most faithful humble servant.

1, 1689.

* King James's invasion, &c.

I AM so very sensible of that s...
ship chooses still to preserve towards me,
been no fortunate instrument and perha
times a faulty one through ignorance, i
long depending treaty, that I cannot obtain
good will to be altogether silent, but tell
ship how I value your good opinion, and
cellent temper which disposes your lordsh
so calmly, and so respectfully, a behaviou
you see yourself injured in. I am infinite
has proved so, and so are, I must affirm,
concerned; but continual repetitions wo
tedious to your lordship, and I would not
turb your rest, by your reading at an un
hour a letter you do not like.

I will venture it, if ever I can write
shall (as I think) be welcome to you;
can conquer, your lordship's zeal as
must. But, my lord, this is a time
threatening and distraction, that all
such never so great, must r

XCV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

By your last letter, writ some day in Passion week, I find where you were then ; yet having heard nothing of you since, it gives me some doubts where you are now, being I apprehend, lady Gainsborough might be solicitous to see so faithful and so useful a friend, especially in this time of her need, and if she does, I never make a doubt of your gratifying her.

I cannot tell you I have taken any notice of that part of your last letter which concerns lord Bedford, and the Cambridgeshire clergy ; for really and truly unless I made it a business to do it, (which you did not seem to require) I have had no time ; the parliament-hours are so extravagant, that I see him little. He has with him now a concerned lady in the privileges of your country, lady Alington ; but though she is in London, she would not walk yesterday, which I do not commend her for : I am not sure what you may do ; I had no sister there yesterday. You hear all the new honours, I suppose ; not many new creations, but all are stepping higher ; as lord Winchester* is duke of Bolton :

* Charles Paulet, marquis of Winchester. Reresby relates, that in the midst of the impending dangers which seemed to threaten us, there was a nobleman (the M. of W.) who had by his conduct persuaded some people to think him mad ; but notwithstanding his irregularity, he was a man of great sense, and it is certain his meaning was to keep himself out of the way of the more serious censure in those ticklish days.

tewer, yet their attenueance was w
cation near the queen all the time,
cheerful faces by a great deal. If
from Scotland, they mean to take th
England. The last reports from I
king James was moving with thi
the north; and yesterday lord I
Colerain, a great town, was besiege
but that lord Blaine†† had sallied

* Ralph Montague, lord, earl, afterwa

† Thomas Bellasise, viscount Fauco
wife was Mary, daughter of Oliver Crom

‡ Charles Mordaunt, who afterwards
Henry, as earl of Peterborough.

I John Churchill, earl, afterwards du
He said to Rouvigny in 1685, "If the ki
on to alter our religion, I will serve h
withdraw from him."—*Burnet*.

§ Richard Lumley, afterwards earl of
secured Newcastle for king William, to
wise very serviceable.

¶ William Bentinck, earl, afterwards

aved himself that they had raised the siege. M'Avaux, who was the French ambassador in Holland, would not speak in counsel, till all the protestants were put out; so they were, and, as they ay, afterwards discharged all together, as the lord Burenard, &c. I am called away, and it is too late to defer sending this from

Your constant friend and servant.

12 April, 1689.

The mother lady Aylesbury is dead very suddenly.

XCVI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

HIS comes to ask a courtesy of you, good doctor, if I can get this letter to you time enough. The business is this; lord Devonshire is to be installed at Windsor on St. George's * day. My young folks have a longing desire to see the ceremony, and they cannot do it without a night's lodging in Windsor. If I can have that accommodation of your house, I will think it a great favour, and will go with them, and look to your house while every body is gone to the show.

I doubt the post cannot bring me a return time

and heading a body of protestants in the province of Ulster, he took the pass of Lough Bricklan, seized Armagh, and caused king William and queen Mary to be proclaimed there, and at several other places, with great solemnity.—*Irish Comp.*

* William, earl, afterwards duke of Devonshire, installed knight of the garter, May 14; but according to Lady Russell, designed to be April 23, St. George's day.

and all you

I have had opportunity ...
lord Bedford what you said about the clergy.
answered, he believed there would be no ch
made, but if there were, you should have good
sons for it, such as he knew would satisfy
but he was sure he should not be forward to
pose upon the clergy.

It is church time, and therefore I bid you
well for this time.

Ever your friend and serv

Sunday.

XCVII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

YOUR last spoke of being in town so soon, this
made me (who manage writing to the best
tage) be longer than otherwise I would have
without inquiring of you where you are, and
how you spend your time? Where you

My stay here is not intended above ten or twelve days.

I will not turn my paper, so I rest
Your true friend and servant.

XCVIII.

DR. FITZWILLIAM TO LADY RUSSELL.

I RECEIVED, good madam, by yours of the 11th, a further testimony of that kindness of which I had abundant proof and full conviction before, and of your readiness to employ your interest to procure that for me which I requested some three months since. I made that petition then, in prospect of what is now come upon us, and in hope, that having obtained previous leave to go abroad before the oaths had been pressed, I should not have been immediately compelled to return back to take them. What now I shall do in this present emergency I am irresolved; but if, having first debated it with myself, and advised with my friends, it shall seem most expedient to make such a retreat, I will depend upon your honour's mediation for that favour.

I have a project, which, if feasible, would please me more than any thing in the world, and by such an interest as yours may be in this court, upon the merits of your lord's sufferings, and the actings of his family, I should not question it might be obtained for one so unworthy of any ray of grace as myself. But if the thing be set on foot, it must be with great caution and secrecy, till I am secure of the king's promise for it; and therefore I cannot tell whether you had best acquaint the prelate men-

instan-
tiated to my crown, in whom I may con-
least capitulation direct or
He whom I design, is one M
New Chapel, Westminster,
favourite enough of the !
this now another way be
but that I would take a lo
did not I withal apprehen
who is the original pat
administer the oath to
he is unsatisfied about
not tell what my dear
may do in this case.
and another I saw in
nour of your sex, to
sideration of the ch
"persuasion of "assis

of the church, and as ardent desires for its peace as any ; and let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I prefer not Jerusalem before my chief joy. But I cannot esteem it a good way to seek the attainment of this, by any act which shall disturb my own peace ; and yet this I must of necessity do, if I make use of such means as may be conducive to that end, when I am not first convinced of the justice of them. I did not doubt but the deans of some of the greatest name in the city would take the oaths, nor do I suspect but they will proceed to the doing so upon grounds which seem in their own judgment very solid. And yet I ought not to act or defend what I do by the example of others. This is like clearing one's self by reckoning up the faults of others, as St. Hierome writing to Celantia observes : but, however, as he proceeds, it argues a lightness and vanity of mind, for a man to leave his own conscience to follow the opinion of others. It may be their judgment, that at least, in such a case as ours was, the people have power to alter the succession ; and that the convention was a full representative of them.

I sucked in other more monarchical principles with the first knowledge I had, from the breasts of my mother the University, and then, and ever since took them, as far as I could understand, to be more agreeable to our frame of constitution of government. Or they may look on this revolution as a tacit and virtual conquest. I wish it had been owned to be such ; for then I had known from the resolutions of civilians and casuists, and my own reason, what to have done without difficulty. In

'The former -- will bear *faith and true allegiance* to the king Charles, or king James, and his heir: cessor, and him and them will defend.' premacy, "I will bear *faith and true all lawful successors*, and to my power s and defend all jurisdictions, privileges nences, and authorities granted or be the king's highness, his heirs and suc united and annexed to the imperial cro realm."

Now I am informed by the statute that lineal succession is a privilege below the undoubted and fundamental law dom, neither the peers of this realm, i mons, nor both together, in parliament, nor the people collectivel sentatively, nor any persons whatsoe ought to have, any coercive power ove

the people met either collectively or repre-
sently, which they did neither ?*

a mean time, I protest to your ladyship,
e truth of a Christian and a priest, that di-
myself of all prejudices, and, as far as it is
, of all passions which darken the light of
gment, I will examine the matter to the
, and if I find I can take the oath, I will :
find I cannot, without declaring, or an ad-
of such a declaration, that I never intend
l be thought by construction or implication
swearing, to recognize the legal title of
illiam and queen Mary, I then beg of your
these three things.

at you would have the same good opinion
tegrity, and of my zealous addiction to you,

574-5, on a bill to prevent dangers from disaffected
lord Halifax, with that quickness of learning and
which are inseparable from all his discourses, made
that as there was no real security to any state by
no private person, much less statesman, would ever
affairs as relying on it, for no man would ever
th open doors, or unlocked-up treasure, or plate,
ll the town be sworn not to rob: so that the use
plying oaths had been most commonly to exclude
b some honest conscientious men, who would never
judiced the government. As for promissory oaths,
eared the learned prelates would consider the opi-
Grotius de Jure, B. and P. c. ii. 13. who seems to
plain, that those kind of oaths are forbidden by our
Christ, Matth. v. 34, 37—and whether it would not
the fathers of the church, when they have well
that and other places in the New Testament, to be
ider in multiplying oaths, than hitherto the great
the church have been.—*P. Debates.*—Ralph says
quis lived till 1709.

presumptions.

3. That I may have some room in your
any can be spared, to set up my books in
recourse to them, if, on refusal, we are
bidden to stay in the town.

The first petition I will more earnestly
press upon you, your sister the lady More
and all other friends, than the rest, because
it is the worst sort of martyrdom, to see
the opinion of friends I have extremely
honoured, either as indiscreet or factious.

But yet, if such a martyrdom cannot
I will endeavour to sustain it with per-
courage.

Mrs. Alington, for whom I have al-
ways had a tender regard from her childhood, sensi-
tive me when she called this standing out o-
factions.

As to the second, if you shall see fit
I will apply with the same request to
my honoured friend the lady Gainsborough.

Opposition only

might spare you a room; and if it had come into my head earlier than to-day, I am sure the dean of Winchester would, upon my writing, have spared you any in Dr. Fulham's house, which is in his command.

I entreat your honour to present my very humble respect and service to the lord Russell, lady Cavendish, madam Catherine. I commend you and them to God's protection, and continue, as I shall by your permission, ever, madam,

Your honour's most truly and
Humble devoted servant.

13 May, 1689.

XCIX.

TO * * *

MY LORD,

For my part, I think the man a very indifferent reasoner, that to do well, he must take with indifference whatever happens to him. It is very fine to say, Why should we complain that is taken back which was but lent us, and lent us but for a time, we know? and so on. They are the receipts of philosophers I have no reverence for, as I have not for any thing which is unnatural. It is insincere; and I dare say they did dissemble, and felt what they would not own. I know I cannot dispute with Almighty Power; but yet if my delight is gone, I must needs be sorry it is taken away, according to the measure it made me glad.

The Christian religion only, believe me, my lord, has a power to make the spirit easy under great ca-

You know better than ~~more~~, ...
have had of the one, what they do afford
hope you will prove what tranquillity the othe
If I had a better wish to make, your lo
constant expressions of esteem for me, and
ness, as I hope, to have had me less miseral
I am, if you had found your power equal
will, engages me to make it ; and that alon
hâve bound me, though my own unworthi
ill fortune had let you have forgot me for e
my sad lot. But since you would not do so
deserve a particular acknowledgment
from

Your lo

July, 1689.

C.

BISHOP OF SALISBURY TO LADY R

If it were for no other cause but to ha
--- Indechein . fr

; her most humble service to your ladyship
ir children; and therefore that I may not
t again, I must now begin with it, and so be
n her favour. She is not a little proud of
my honours you have done her; and desires
arrestly to be looked on by you as one that
the value and admiration for you which she
isibly pay you. I do in the next place, on my
ccount, make my most humble acknowledg-
for the great care you have had of my books,
I have now cased up in your ladyship's cases
isbury. I have been so long accustomed to be
t to your ladyship, and have so long a score
kon for, that I will never offer to clear it.
can say is, that as I have met with all the
marks of a most obliging goodness and friend-
om your ladyship, so no heart can possibly be
of a deep sense of it than mine is; and as
is I live I will reckon myself as much a pro-
to you, as any thing can be that eats your
; and you and' yours may ever depend upon
it I can ever do, as much as if I were bought
your money. You will, perhaps, wonder how
got into this strain, that am so little apt even
what I ought to do upon such subjects; but

in Guelderland. With these advantages of birth,
d those of a fine person; was well skilled in drawing,
and painting; and spoke Dutch, English, and French
y well. Her knowledge in matters of divinity, was
a might rather be expected from a student than from
. She had a fine understanding and sweetness of
, and excelled in all the qualifications of a dutiful
a prudent mistress of a family, and a tender mother
dren.—*Biog. Brit.*

issue of that siege.* thousands of Irish protestants to London either to die before it, or to be let in to eat provisions, is a piece of cruelty, that if persisted will bring on great barbarities, and will render mobile again on the papists of England. I am not quite sure whether the French fleet is not; for though there is some reason to be yet there is much reason to doubt of it.

* Londonderry was relieved 19 July, 1689.

† Murrarty, query Maccarty, who commanded a regiment. Ralph relates, that Conrade de Rosen, marshal of king James's forces in Ireland, 30th June, during the siege of Londonderry had recourse to which for every kind of barbarity is not to be paralleled in history: he threatened to gather the Irish rebels cause them immediately to be brought to the walls of Londonderry, where (he said) it shall be lawful for all to be put to death, and that none should be suffered to live in the town, in case they have any pity for them: he caused the gates to be closed, and receive them into the town, where they will be forced to see their nearest relations starved to want of food; he having resolved

, there will be a speedy decision at sea, upon
ch a great deal will depend. You will know
; there has been much heat to-day in the house
ommons, with relation to the two marquisses*
removing them both. I dined to-day with one
hem, who seems not to be much troubled at it ;
aps he thought it was a victory, because the
ste was adjourned ; but after all those wounds
no desirable things. I know your ladyship has
ur news from other hands, so I will give you
ther trouble, but to assure you, that I am, with
ossible duty,

Madam, your ladyship's most humble,
And most obedient servant.

terday night.

The marquises of Halifax and Carmarthen ; the latter, mas Osborne, afterwards (viz. 1694) duke of Leeds, co-
ited in the restoration of king Charles II. was the chief
ument in procuring the match between the princess
and the prince of Orange, and acted with great zeal
e placing them on the throne, which was rewarded with
trusts and honours. He died 1712.—*Brit. Comp.*
daughter Bridget was first married to Charles Fitz-
les, earl of Plymouth, natural son of king Charles II.
atherine Peg.) Burnet says, he gained the highest de-
in Charles II.'s confidence, and maintained it longer
any that ever served him : he was likewise in great fa-
with king William. It was the marquis of Halifax
put this question, Whether the prince and princess of
ge should be declared king and queen?—*Oldmixon.*

... come to me
designed it. I must, or
say you are a very mindful
injurious to myself, if I
thankful receiver of your
and your sense of my loss to

It is very natural, I belie
thinks as I do, to some de
sure, and that one does n
You instance very right, sir
tion which was between us
can ever waste my sorrow.
it innocent.

For the late circumsta
mily, I would have assiste
procuring thereof; but for a
outward things, I feel none
live to see him a worthy ma

Your discourse is very fi
philosophers, but that would
I know there is no discon...

faith is sincere, by our willing obedience to all Providences ; and God will not forget any good thing in us ; we shall have a reward ; there is a promise of everlasting life ; and what would not one do to obtain it ? For we love ourselves too well, not to desire to be well always. I may say it is a great bait to do our duty, so that if we have faith, we shall have love and obedience.

Your prayer I like so well, that I have used it with such fervour as I can, more than once this serious day ; and hope I shall more and more acquiesce in these dark providences.

I received a letter from my sister, which I have just read ; she says her son is well recovered of the measles, but is very lean, and her daughter pale ; that she is going in a few days to Boughton. I believe country air will be to their advantage : I pray God spare them to her, poor woman.

London is like to be my retreat from hence, for lord Bedford seems to have no hope of getting yet to Woburn, and I am not prepared at Stratton ; but what one seems so directed to, I hope will do well. Lord Carberry's lady is dead. It is kept very carefully from the princess, who goes very long for one so big as she was. I hear lady Gainsborough is recovering. The dowager lady writes me word she had some thoughts of sending lady Julian to the bath ; that lady Northampton was to take the opinion of doctor Lower—truly I wish he may advise it ; for I have believed a good while it was the best thing she could do, and I am glad she is in hands will leave nothing undone may be thought to her advantage ; for that, I do firmly believe, my lady will


zwilliam's
servant.

doctor, b
lord Gai
I hear k
ury wate
at Mr. H
r Alingto
f paper of
well to.
I came t
, and tha
ll be Mo
3 no new
sses did
her Scot
were se
o little
ll not b

to setve

CIII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I AM most ready, good doctor, to furnish you towards a correspondence; but any matter I am sure serves you if mine does. Now the matter you supply me with is too fine, or too strong, indeed both, for me to meddle with. I am sorry you missed lord Montague, though I despair of argument winning you, who I believe have gone through all; but his power and goodness might be useful to you: and all the service which can be done you, I wish you may find friends to do it, and would refuse no part I can act.

I am very sorry the case stands with you as it does in reference to the oath; and still wonder (unless I could find kings of divine right) why it does so; and all this is the acceptation of a word which I never heard two declare the meaning of but they differed in their sense of it. You say you could have taken it in the sense some worthy men have done. Why will you be more worthy than those men? It is supererogation.

If you can avoid mental reservation, that is the biggest thing to me, for I hate that to God or man; properly I know we can have none to God, though we may wish to have it; but I abhor that wish. But you seem to say, though you are permitted to declare, that is not enough, as not being consistent with the simplicity of an oath, and that it ought to be taken according to the mind of the imposers. If

lord Nottingham's* misfortune t-
word which gives such scruples
(with submission to wiser heads
greater to weaken the interest o
the protestant religion all the w
degree, so many able men, incapaci
to serve in the church, will do, if G
prevent it not.

It is above great and good men
tions, if they give not a just cause

* Daniel Finch, earl of Nottinghan
prince's accession as contrary to law, ye
highness was here, and we must owe o
as king de facto, he thought it but just
allegiance to him. (*Ralph.*) He was
prevailed on to be secretary of state to
told the friends to the revolution he co
them, but he would so far assist them
would avail, and be so far criminal a
make him. (*Burnet.*) He had great cr
party; in 1721 he received the thanks

rving the cause of God the best we can, there
ne given. It may very well be passive obe-
e went too high. Some drove Jehu like. If
pears they perceive they did so, ought there to
ame in that ; or ought it not to be borne cheer-
? If their nakedness is laid open, and some
s do insult,* still they should be above it, and
ome evil with good. I never thought good
had any harm by the ill-natured speeches of
cious spirits. God knows the very best of men
infirmities ; but they are ill men that retort
i. However, after all is said, or can be said, a
must be quiet in his own breast if he can.
n I began to write in this paper, I meant not
word of all I have said on this subject, but I
v, good doctor, you will take it right, accept
of my good meaning towards you, and excuse
fects. I pretend not to argue ; but where my
es are earnest, I speak without reserve, some-

The papists accused the church of England of innova-
and contradiction, with respect to resistance, or taking
ms against the king. *Ralph* observes, that in 1685,
lery began to abate of their extravagant loyalty. When
labors were ordered to publish the king's declaration
duilence, as this was publishing what they thought to
legal, or highly inconvenient, and being levelled at
own interests, says the champion for the orthodox
of the church (*Caveat*) " they could not either in rea-
r conscience obey ; this was putting violence on the
dences of the king's best subjects." Thus it was com-
i at last, that the laws are the measure of obedience ;
men have a right to withhold their obedience when it
ely to prove inconvenient to their own interest ; and
some regard is due to the consciences of legal pro-
ts, though none had been shewn by them to pro-
it dissenters.

LADY RUSSELL'S LETTERS.

times by surprise: but take it as it is; I will not look back to examine; I know I need not to you. I am just now, when I have signed this, going to write to my sister, and will remember your charge.

Knowing you could not be at lord Gainsborough's, I writ to Cotenham: I guess you have missed it. The waters did exceedingly well with the children. After they had done, Rachel was ill for twenty-four hours of a feverish distemper; but bleeding got it over. I am your willing friend to serve you, though others may more effectually.

31 Aug. 1689.

On the 16th Sept. 1689, Dr. Tillotson wrote from Edmonton to lady Russell, giving her an account of the king's having conferred the bishopric of Chichester on Dr. Pa-trick; and the rectory of St. Paul's, Covent-garden, falling to his majesty's disposal by this promotion, dean Tillotson informed her ladyship, that he believed the king would no dispose of that living but to one whom the earl would no the patron of it, should approve; and therefore of Bedford earl of Nottingham should mention to his majesty on occasion Dr. John More. In the same letter the dean's notice of his having spoken to the king the Sunday before concerning Mr. Samuel Johnson, and that his n seemed well inclined to what he had moved for that but did not positively determine to take that course refers to some request which lady Russell had des dean to make to his majesty in favour of Mr. Joh whom she had great zeal, out of regard both to the of her husband, whose chaplain he had been, a merit of his writings and sufferings.—*Birch.*

CIV.

DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

London, Sept. 19, 1669.

ONOURED MADAM,
RECEIVED both your letters, and before the latter
e to my hands I gave your ladyship some kind of
ver to the first, as the time would let me, for
post stayed for it. But having now a little more
re, you will, I hope, give me leave to trouble
with a longer letter.

was not at Hampton Court last Sunday, being
et tired out with ten weeks attendance, so that
we had no opportunity to try further in the
ness I wrote of in my last, but hope to bring
some issue the next opportunity I can get to
k with the king. I am sorry to see in Mr.
nson* so broad a mixture of human frailty,

In a paper to justify lord Russell's opinion, "that re-
ice may be used in case our religion and rights should
vaded," as an answer to the dean's letter to his lord-
of 20 July, 1663, Johnson observes, that this opinion
l not be wrested from his lordship at his death, not-
standing the disadvantages at which he was taken, when
as practised upon to retract that opinion, and to be-
th a legacy of slavery to his country. And, indeed, the
was so apprehensive of lady Russell's displeasure at his
ing his lordship, though with the best intentions, upon
subject, that when he was first admitted to her after
ord's death, he is said to have addressed her in this
ser: That he first thanked God and then her ladyship,
hat opportunity of justifying himself to her; and then

The king, besides his first

soon returned to the terms of friendship.—*Birch.* Mr. John state, to prove the legality of r king James II.'s army: he was and whipped, after being degi stored him to his liberty: the ju was declared illegal and cruel, and the house of lords recomme He died 1703.—*Birch.* He : Durham.

* Mr. George Walker, justly Londonderry, in Ireland, (whci have surrendered it to king Jan parents in the county of Tyr educated in the university of G afterwards rector of Donnogh the city of Londonderry. Upo a regiment for the defence of the intelligence of king James Londonderry, retired thither, b of it. After the raising of that where he was most resolutely

whose modesty is equal to his merit, hath made him bishop of Londonderry, one of the best bishoprics in Ireland ; that so he may receive the reward of that great service in the place where he did it. It is incredible how much every body is pleased with what the king hath done in this matter, and that it is no small joy to me to see that God directs him wisely.

I will now give your ladyship a short account of his majesty's disposal of our English church preferments, which I think he has done as well as could be expected, in the midst of the powerful importunities of so many great men, in whom I discern too much of court art and contrivance for the preferment of their friends; yea, even in my good lord Nottingham, more than I could wish. This is a melancholy consideration to one in my station, in which I do not see how it is possible so to manage a man's self between civility and sincerity, between being willing to give good words to all, and able to do good to very few, as to hold out an honest man, or even the reputation of being so a year to an end.

I promised a short account, but I am long before I come to it. The dean of St. Paul's,* bishop of Worcester; the dean of Peterborough,† of Chichester; an humble servant of yours, dean of St. Paul's; the dean of Norwich ‡ is dean of Canterbury; and Dr. Stanley, clerk of his majesty's closet, is residentiary of St. Paul's; and Dr. Fairfax dean

* Dr. Stillingfleet.

† Dr. Simon Patrick.

‡ Dr. John Sharp.

West, Mr. & ...
Nixon, who is my lord or ~~Dean~~.
rying messages between the kin
Bath, as the king himself told m
of his life. St. Andrew's and (
not yet disposed. Dr. Birch (w
forgot) is prebendary of Westmi
grieves me much, Mons. Aliix |
but my lord privy seal † would n
whole is as well as could easil
circumstances.

But now begins my trouble.
the king's haund for the deanry
his majesty my most humble t
that now he had set me at ea
of my life. He replied, " No
you ;" and spoke plainly about
I dread to think of, and said, '
his service, and he must cha
science." Just as he had s
supper, and I had only t

lity. For on the one hand, it is hard to deny his majesty's commands, and much harder yet stand out against so much goodness as his majesty is pleased to use towards me; on the other, neither bring my inclination nor my judgment

This I owe to the bishop of Salisbury, one worst and best friends I know! best, for his ar good opinion of me; and the worst, for letting the king to this method, which I know he us if his lordship and I had concerted the mat- w to finish this foolish piece of dissimulation, going away from a bishopric* to catch an bishopric. This fine device hath thrown me into the briars, that without his majesty's goodness I shall never get off without a bad face. And now I will tell your ladyship ston of my heart. I have of a long time, I God for it, devoted myself to the public ser-

llotson wrote before to a nobleman (supposed the Portland) begging he might be excused from accepting bishopric. Birch remarks, instances of this kind of deal will perhaps be thought rare in any age; but as a remarkable one under Henry VIII. of another Canterbury, well known by his embassies and publications, Dr. Nicholas Wotton, great uncle of sir Henry. This great politician, as well as divine, being told of an intention to advance him to the mitre, wrote Dr. Bellasis from Dusseldorf, Nov. 11th, 1539, re- g him, for the passion of God, to convey that bishopric to him. "So I might (adds he) avoid it without dis- ease, I would surely never meddle with it; there be that be meet for it, and will not refuse it. I cannot enough, cur obtrudatur non cupienti immo ne idoneo . My mind is as troubled as my writing is.—Your's little power, Nicholas Wotton. Add whatsoever you're to it, if you add not *bishop*."

shall be able to do as much or more
present station, than in a higher,
have one jot less interest or influence
others to any good purpose; for they
rally love a man that will take great
the preferment. But on the other hand
force my inclination to take this great
see that I should sink under it, and
choly and good for nothing, and after
die as a fool dies.

But this, madam, is a great deal of
one of the worst and nicest subjects
man's self.

As I was finishing this long letter
goodness will forgive, I hope never
sion to try it so far again, I received
shall say no more of Dr. More, of
I always knew your ladyship's opinion
I mentioned was Mr. Kidder, on
has bestowed the deanry of Peter
I cannot have it. I am ful

If my lord thinks well of Dr. Horneck, Dr. More would then certainly have St. Andrew's.

I thank God for the health your family enjoys, as for that of my own; and equally pray for the continuance of it, and all other blessings. I would fain find room to tender my humble service to my lord Bedford, my lord Russell, and two of the best young ladies I know. I am, honoured madam, more than I can express,

Your most obliged and obedient servant.

CV.

LADY RUSSELL TO THE DEAN OF ST. PAUL'S.

WHENEVER, Mr. Dean, you are disposed, and at leisure to give it me, I can be well content, I assure you, to read the longest letter you can write. But I had not so soon told a truth you cannot choose but know, if this paper was not to be hastened to you with a little errand that I am well enough pleased to be employed in; because the effect will be good, though the cause does not please me; being you said Mr. Kidder* cannot have Covent Garden, because he is dean of Peterborough (though I do not conceive why, unless it is because he is great, and others are not.) But lord Bedford leans strongly to offer him to the king; it is from what

* Rd. Kidder, afterwards bishop of Bath and Wells (in Kenn's stead, 1691) was killed with his lady at Wells, by the fall of a stack of chimneys during the high wind, 27 Nov. 1703.

you said to me has made him do so. Yet if you judge he should not now be the man, I am enjoined to obtain from you some character of one Mr. Freeman,* and Mr. Williams; † the last I have heard you speak well of, but I did not heed his just character. What you think fit to say to me shall not be imparted but in general terms, if you like that best; though Lord Bedford is as close as can be desired, and as well inclined as possible to do the best, and will have me say something of these men before he fixes, which my lord Shrewsbury advises him to quickly.

More ‡ he is averse to; Horneck || the parish is also, as he is well informed, to a high degree. So Kidder, Williams, and Freeman, are before him. I desire two or three lines upon this subject, by the first post, if you please.

Though my paper is full enough, especially to a man that has no more spare time than you have, yet I must just touch upon some other parts of your letter, being they touch me most sensibly. I bless God that inclines the heart of our king to do well; it looks as if God meant a full mercy to these long threatened kingdoms. I thank Mr. Dean very heartily for those thoughts that influence and heighten his charity to Mr. J——n. I will not say what I do more, but you must needs know. Mr. Dean, now a few words to your own concern, that bears so heavy upon your mind, and I have done. I know

* Dr. Freeman died dean of Peterborough, 1707.

† Williams, afterwards bishop of Chichester, died 1709.

‡ More died bishop of Ely, 1714.

|| Horneck died prebendary of Westminster, 1696—7.

not if I should use the phrase, "integrity is my idol;" but I am sure I admire and love it hugely wherever I meet it. I would never have a sincere person crossed. I do pity you, Mr. Dean, and I think you have a hard game upon your hands, which if it should happen you cannot play off your own way, you can do better than a man less mortified to the world could; being if you serve the interest of religion and the king's, you are doing what you have dedicated yourself to, and therefore can be more regardless of the ignorant or wicked censor; for, upon my word, I believe you will incur no other: your character is above it, if what you fear should come upon you. But as I conceive there are six months yet to deliberate upon this matter, you know the old saying, "many things fall out between the cup and the lip;" and pray do not fill your head with the fears of a trouble, though never so great, that is at a distance, and may never be; for if you think too much on a matter you dread, it will certainly disturb your quiet, and that will infallibly your health; and you cannot but see, sir that would be of a bad consequence. The king is willing to hear you. You know your own heart to do good, and you have lived some time, and have had experience. You say well that such an one is the best and worst friend. I think I should have had more tenderness to the will or temper of my friend; and for his justification, one may say, he prefers good to many, before gratifying one single person, and a public good ought to carry a man a great way. But I see your judgment (if your inclination does not bias too far) is heartily against him in this matter, that you think you can-

not do so much good then as now. We ~~must~~ see if you can convince him thereof; and when he is master of that notion, then let him labour to make your way out of those briars he has done ~~his~~ ~~part~~ to bring you into; though something else would have done it without him, I believe, if I am not mistaken in this, no more than I am that this letter is much too long from, &c.

September, 1689.

CVI.

DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Edmonton, Sept. 24, 1689.

HONoured MADAM,

Just now I received your ladyship's letter. Since my last, and not before, I understand the great averseness of the parish from Dr. Horneck; so that if my lord of Bedford had liked him, I could not have thought it fit, knowing how necessary it is to the good effect of a man's ministry that he do not lie under any great prejudice with the people. The two whom the bishop of Chichester hath named, are, I think, of the worthiest of the city ministers, since Mr. Kidder declines it, for the reason given by the bishop, and if he did not, could not have it; not because of any inconsistency in the preferments, but because the king, having so many obligations yet to answer, cannot, at the same time, give two such preferments to one man. For the two persons mentioned, if comparison must be

made between two very good men, I will tell your ladyship my free thoughts of them.

Mr. Williams is really one of the best men I know, and most unwearied in doing good, and his preaching very weighty and judicious. The other is a truly pious man, and of a winning conversation. He preaches well, and hath much the more plausible delivery, and, I think, a stronger voice. Both of them (which I had almost forgot) have been steady in all changes of times. This is the plain truth; and yet I must not conceal one particular and present advantage on Dr. Freeman's side. On Sunday night last, the king asked me concerning a city minister, whose name he had forgot; but said, he had a very kind remembrance of him, having had much conversation with him, when his majesty was very young, in Holland, and wondered he had never seen him since he came into England.

I could not imagine who he should be, till his majesty told me he was the English ambassador's chaplain above twenty years ago, meaning sir William Temple's. Upon that I knew it was Dr. Freeman. The king said that was his name, and desired me to find him out, and tell him that he had not forgot him, but remembered with pleasure the acquaintance he had with him many years ago; and had charged me, when there was an opportunity, to put him in mind of him. This I thought both great goodness in the king, and modesty in Dr. Freeman,* never to shew himself to the king all

* Dr. Freeman was instituted to the rectory of Covent-garden, Dec. 28, 1669.

this while. By this your ladyship will judge is like to be most acceptable to the king, satisfaction, as well as service, I am oblig regard, especially in the disposal of his own fermentations, though Mr. Williams be much more friend.

I mentioned Mr. Johnson again, but his master put on other discourse; and my lord privy told me yesterday morning, that the king thought it a little hard to give pensions out of his purse instead of church preferments; and tells me Johnson is very sharp upon me. His lordship called it railing, but it shall not move me, at least. His lordship asked me, whether it would not be well to move the king to give him a bishopric in Ireland, there being several vacant. I thought it very well if it would be acceptable. His lordship said, that was all one; the other would stop many mouths as well as his: which he said was well considered.

I will say no more of myself; but only thank your ladyship for your good advice, which I have in a great disposition to follow; and a greater reason, being assured it is sincere as well as well meant. The king hath set upon me again, with a greater earnestness of persuasion than is fit for me to command. I begged as earnestly as I could be consider'd in this thing, and so we parted upon terms. I hope something will happen to him. I put it out of my mind as much as I can; and let it to the good providence of God for the time to find its own issue. To that I commend you yours; and am, madam,

Yours, by all possible obliquity

If Mr. Johnson refuse this offer, and it should be my hard fortune not to be able to get out of this difficulty, (which I will, if it be possible to do it without provocation), I know one that will do more for Mr. Johnson than was desired of the king, but still as from the king, for any thing that he shall know. But, I hope, some much better way will be found; and that there will be neither occasion nor opportunity for this.*

CVII.

LADY MONTAGUE TO LADY RUSSELL.

I AM very sorry, my dear sister, to find by yours, which I received by the last post, that your thoughts have been so much disturbed with what I thought ought to have some contrary effect.† It is very true what is once taken from us, in that nature, can never be returned; all that remains of comfort (according to my temper) is a bringing to punishment those who were so wickedly and unjustly the cause of it.

I confess, it was a great satisfaction to me to hear that was the public care; it being so much to the honour, as well as what in justice was due to

* The king granted Johnson 300*l.* a year for his own and his son's life, with 1000*l.* in money, and a place of 100*l.* a year for his son.

† This probably alludes to the committee of the house of commons to examine who were the advisers and promoters of the murder of lord Russell, &c.

your ~~dear~~ lord, that I do not doubt
thoughts will give you leave to
find comfort.

I heartily pray God you may,
never have the addition of any other
and ever shall be the prayer of

Your enti

Boughton, 23 December, 1699.

CVIII.

TO LADY SUNDERLAND

I THINK I understand almost perfectly what you say; yet I knew better things than to conceive what is so good as my letters; or not to have a due regard to their value as her esteem and kindnisses to enjoy it my whole life. I can find no fault but one, and that is, that all the favours you direct to me are useless creature in the world, owns me as one had been of some value. Alas! I know I was not, but my interest pitied your sorrow; I was hearable, and if I had an occasion for gent, but no further ability; and to receive it kindly. But, so unhappy I was once for my poor self and misgives me when I aim at any thing more. Yet I hope I have made the will of God, when de-

my content, and to thank him for all the hard things I suffer as the best assurances of a large share in that other blessed state; and if what is dear to us is got thither before us, the sense what they enjoy, and we in a little while shall with them, ought to support us and our friends.

CIX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

I ASSURE you, good doctor, I was very well pleased this evening, to receive another letter from you; and much more than ordinary, because your last had some gentle hints in it, as if you thought I had taken some offence, though you kindly again said, you could not or would not imagine it, not being conscious of omission or commission; and indeed you have good reason for saying so: I will at any time justify you in it, and do more commend your belief, that I either had not your letters, or was not well, than I could your mistrust of me for what will never happen. But an old dated paper has convinced you, and a newer had, if I had known where to have found you; for in yours of the 5th of August you intimate that you meant (if it did not too much offend the eyes of a friend of mine that were weak) to make a stay at Windsor of ten days longer, and made no mention then whither you went. Now truly I had that letter, when I was obliged to write much to such as would congratulate my being well again, some in kindness, and some in ceremony.

But so it was, that when I were
should not know where to send
till I had learned that. I sent
could not tell : I bade John send
you to know if you were at Chil-
Gainsborough was not there the
informed me yourself.

By report I fear poor lady Gai
trouble : for though she has all
to support her, yet that does not
all sorrow ; it does not direct us
we could command it, but to a
the will of God, making his own.
Indeed, doctor, you are extreme-
think that my life has been so in-
a very poor thing to me ; yet I
enough of it. I think I am used
and would endure hard things
they can do for themselves ; but
conclude, if I had not that, yet I
some reason to be content to
weary of every thing, and of the
the madness of man most of all.

There is a shrinking from the
soul from the body, that is implied
which enforces us to conserve life
providence ; for who would else
that is not taught the great ad-
sufferings ? I am heartily sorry
you are not exempt, which I am
when you cannot exercise your
among your flock at Cotenham

enlarge on this matter, nor any other at this time. That I might be certain not to omit this respect to you, I have begun with it, and have many behind, to which I must hasten, but first desire you will present my most humble service to my lady : I had done myself the honour to write to her, just as I believe she was writing to me, but I will thank her yet for that favour. Either trouble or the pleasure of her son's settlement engrosses her, I apprehend, at this time, and business I know is an attendant of the last.

I am, sir,
Your constant friend and servant.

Woburn Abbey, 28th August, 1690.

CX.

DEAN TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Edmonton, 9th Oct. 1690.

HONOURED MADAM,

SINCE I had the honour of your letter, I was tempted to have troubled you with one of mine upon the sad occasion of your late great loss of two so near relations, and so near together ;* but I considered, why should I pretend to be able either to instruct or comfort my lady Russell, who hath borne things much more grievous with so exemplary a

* The death of her sister, the countess of Montague, and of her nephew, Wriothesley Baptist, earl of Gainsborough.

tears shall ...

And now I crave leave to tell
own trouble to your ladyship
king commanded me to wait
morning at Kensington. I
what I feared. His majesty
gracious offer, is so pressing
so much kindness, that I have
it. I made the best acknowledgement
undeserved grace and favour
him to consider all the consequences
being well assured that all
raised in convocation the
will be the church of England
count, and that the bishop
of it, out of a jealousy that
to him in attaining what
call God to witness, I would
his majesty, that I was still
to me would be greatly to
if he carried it so far as

obedience to his majesty's commands, I would consider of it again, though I was afraid I had already thought more of it than had done me good, and must break through one of the greatest resolutions of my life, and sacrifice at once all the ease and contentment of it ; which yet I would force myself to do, were I really conviuced, that I was in any measure capable of doing his majesty and the public that service which he was pleased to think I was. He smiled, and said, " You talk of trouble ; I believe you will have much more ease in it, than in the condition in which you now are." Thinking not fit to say more, I humbly took leave.

And now, madam, what shall I do ? My thoughts were never at such a plunge. I know not how to bring my mind to it ; and on the other hand, though the comparison is very unequal, when I remember how I saw the king affected in the case of my lord of Shrewsbury,* I find myself in great strait, and would not for all the world give him the like trouble. I pray God to direct me to that which he sees and knows to be best, for I know not what to do. I hope I shall have your prayers, and would be glad of your advice, if the king would spare me so long. I pray God to preserve you and yours.

I am, honoured madam, &c.

* When that earl resigned the post of secretary of state about 1690, to divert him from which, dean Tillotson had been sent to his lordship by the king.—*Burnet*, vol. ii. p. 45.

CXL.

TO THE DEAN OF ST. ASAPH.

YOUR letters will never trouble me, for the contrary, they are comfortable, for the most part, overbrought both by nature and by accident, that I cannot bear, with that quietness which the losses I have lately felt; I can hardly tell what acquaintances thou hast hid out, but hope it shall not disturb my peace of mind. The young, and as they had began the world, so I desired they might have a quiet life. Happy are those whom God retains; trust these were so; and then nothing to the young it is not too early, or too late. Submission and prayer is all we can do towards our own relief, or to disarm God's anger, either in private concerns. The scene will be peaceful and eternal home in prospect, though the vicissitudes of time of our pilgrimage, are every one's lot. And this is the case, sir.

The time seems to be come anew in practice that submission

* Submission alludes to Tillotson's sermon against resistance. A shrewd hint offered to persuade lord Russell to submit to the king's commands.

powerfully both tried yourself, and instructed others to : I see no place to escape at ; you must take up the cross, and bear it : I faithfully believe it has the figure of a very heavy one to you, though not from the cares of it ; since, if the king guesses right, you toil more now ; but this work is of your own choosing, and the dignity of the other is what you have bent your mind against, and the strong resolve of your life has been to avoid it. Had this even proceeded to a vow, it is, I think, like the virgins of old, to be dissolved by the father of your country. Again, though contemplation, and a few friends well chosen, would be your grateful choice, yet if charity, obedience, and necessity, call you into the great world, and where enemies encompass round about, must not you accept it ? And each of these, in my mean apprehension, determines you to do it. In short, it will be a noble sacrifice you will make, and I am confident you will find as a reward, kind and tender supports, if you do take the burthen upon you : there is, as it were, a commanding providence in the manner of it. Perhaps I do as sincerely wish your thoughts at ease as any friend you have, but I think you may purchase that too dear ; and if you should come to think so too, they would then be as restless as before.

Sir, I believe you would be as much a common good as you can. Consider how few of ability and integrity this age produces. Pray do not turn this matter too much in your head : when one has once turned it every way, you know that more does but perplex, and one never sees the clearer for it. Be not stiff if it be still urged to you. Conform to the Divine Will, which has set it so strongly into the

when they perceive any
you, upon whom no reflect
can be made that is ingen
malice you are above being

I wish for many reasons
worthy; but such as they;
sincere zeal to the throne
strait, that you may be le
serve the great ends and de

[About the middle of Octobe

CX

DEAN TILLOTSON 1

HONOURED MADAM,
I AM obliged to your ladys
for taking my case so seri

my wavering mind. I weighed all you wrote, both your advice and your arguments, having not only an assurance of your true friendship and good will for me, but a very great regard and deference for your judgment and opinion. I cannot but own the weight of that consideration which you are pleased to urge me withal ; I mean the visible marks of a more than ordinary providence of God in this thing ; that the king, who likes not either to importune or to be denied, should, after so obstinate a declining of the thing on my part, still persist to press it upon me with so much kindness, and with that earnestness of persuasion which it does not become me to mention. I wish I could think the king had a superior direction in this, as I verily believe he hath in some other things of much greater importance.

The next morning I went to Kensington full of fear, but yet determined what was fit for me to do. met the king coming out of his closet, and asking his coach was ready. He took me aside, and I told him, that in obedience to his majesty's command, I had considered of the thing as well as I could, and came to give him my answer. I perceived his majesty was going out, and therefore desired him to appoint me another time, which he did the Saturday morning after.

Then I came again, and he took me into his closet, where I told him, that I could not but have a sense of his majesty's great grace and favour in it, not only to offer me the best thing he had to give, but to press it so earnestly upon me. I would not presume to argue the matter any further, but I hoped he would give me leave to be

ne thought ... ---
it was the best news had con-
while. I did not kneel down t-
without that I doubt I am too
quested of him, that he would
of it, and let it be a secret for
he thought it might not be ami-
parliament was up. I begged
he would not make me a wedge
sent archbishop : that some
nominated, his majesty would
in council, that since his len-
better effect, he would wait
dispose of their places. This
desired, that I might not be th-
harsh, or which might reflec-
that his majesty had thought
this station, my reputation w-
He said, he was sensible of i-
sonable to do as I desired. I
mention one thing more, w-

widow of an archbishop of Canterbury (which would now be an odd figure in England*) could not decently be supported by so little as would have contented her very well, if I had died a dean. To this he gave a very gracious answer—"I promise you to take care of her."†

Just as I had finished the last sentence, another very kind letter from your ladyship was brought to me, wherein I find your tender concern for me, which I can never sufficiently acknowledge. But you say, the dye is now cast, and I must now make the best I can of what I lately thought was the worst that could have happened to me. I thank God I am more cheerful than I expected, and comfort myself as I can with this hope, that the providence of God, to which I have submitted my own will in this matter, will graciously assist me to discharge, in some measure, the duty he hath called me to.

I did not acquaint my good friend, who wrote to you, with all that had passed, because it was intended to be a secret, which I am sure is safe in your hands. I only told him, that his majesty did not intend, as yet, to dispose of this place; but when he did it, I was afraid it would be hard for me to escape.

* Only two who had filled the see of Canterbury, had been married: Cranmer and Parker.

† King William granted Tillotson's widow an annuity of £500, and forgave the first fruits; for the archbishop left nothing to his family but the copy of his posthumous sermons, which was afterwards sold for £500 guineas. She died 20th Jan. 1701—2.

ences in England) she told
with great joy acquainted
cerning me, whereof she
many gracious expressions
jesty's promises concerning

But I am sensible this
especially concerning one's

I had almost forgot to
business. As soon as he
letter hither to me, I wrot
hall, and got the business

The bishop of St. David
some minister of a great t
that diocese, that it might
his pains in that great tow
but if the minister is no
bishop, I am sure he is n
been twice to wait on my
but missed of him. Whe
into it, if the thing be fit

to make no difficulty of commanding my poor service upon any occasion, for I am always truly glad of the opportunity.

I cannot forbear to repeat my humble thanks for your great concernment for me in this affair.*

That God would multiply his best blessings upon your ladyship and your children, and make them great blessings and comforts to you, is the daily prayer of,

Madam,
Your most obliged humble servant.

CXIII.

TO LADY RANELAGH.†

MADAM,

I HAVE now before me yours of the 12th, and can read it with the same eagerness as when it came first to me, and so must any body that you shew so

* Archbishop Sancroft was deprived Feb. 1st, 1690—Tillotson nominated in council to the archbishopric, 1691, and consecrated 31st May. He died Nov. 23, 1694.—King William declared that he was the best man whom he ever knew, and the best friend whom he ever had. The queen for many days spoke of him in the tenderest manner, and not without tears.—*Burnet*.

† Wife of Robert Jones, earl of Ranelagh, a man of great parts and as great vices. He had the art of pleasing masters of very different tempers and interests, so much that he continued above thirty years in great posts, and was looked upon as one of the ablest men Ireland had bred.—*Tindal*.

sent me word, -
disposed, but blessed be God, n
so now. And therefore I subn
design I have to serve a very go
trouble your ladyship, and to
please in the matter. And I
displeased on such occasions
you can have opportunity to
effecting what does good to ar
ness.

We are told that Mr. Middle
dition ; his place in the Prize
400/. a year ; it is, though, a
during a war, and so the le
lady Anne Wingate would be
obtained for sir Francis. I t
the tenderer in the point, by
is so intimate a friend ; and
so, I would not do so unwo
to her prejudice. But ho
to see a reversion be not gra
- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

to him, and your wishes in it ; and if you think fit, as a thing you know I offered to him, from my lord Bedford, and my own account ; though I know there will not want that to enforce, when he knows your will in it ; I know so well his respect to your ladyship. However, lord Bedford and myself would shew our readiness to serve my lady Anne and sir Francis, and the more friends join will not recommend it less to my lord Devonshire, if he can do any thing in it.

I have writ to him lord Bedford's thoughts of sir Francis ; which are, that he is an understanding, honest gentleman ; and has almost exceeded any in this country in his zeal and activeness towards the present government.

CXIV.

TO LORD DEVONSHIRE.

MY LORD,

BECAUSE I think all apologies are troublesome, I will not make any for sending you this paper, which comes to your lordship with a joint request from my lord Bedford and myself, if you can befriend us in it. I know your lordship needs not be pressed ; your own nature moves you to oblige petitioners, as many as you can. The business is this : we hear that Mr. Middleton is very near dying ; he has a place in the Prize-office ; it is worth about 400*l.* a year. Sir Francis Wingate, a gentleman in this country, that married a daughter of lady Anglesey,

My lady Ranelagh will, I guess,
engaged in this matter, which I
in : but if it is in your lordship's
courtesy, I shall be glad ; if it i
sorry for this trouble I have bee
your lordship, whose humble ser
whole life.

CXV.

TO MADAME ROUVI

DIEU nous a frappéé, ma chere m
qui nous paroît fort rude ; mais
comme l'homme pense, et il fa
prend pas plaisir à tourmenter ses
Mais que songions-nous, que Di
ner de son chemin en ses provid
contentement ? Non, assurement
~~porter le mieux que nous n'assur~~

as le devoyez, à un fils, et à un homme si brave
si aime ôté du monde.*

Il a aussi toutes sortes de consolations qu'on peut
ossible atteindre, en la manière de sa mort : en
utes ses dernières actions, mon ame me fait fort
pérer qu'il fut accepté, et que son ame se repose
la bras de cet Sauveur en qui il se reposoit avec
nt de foi. Dieu veut madame, que vous et moi
isons nos devoirs en telle sorte que les accidents
nous peuvent arriver ne nous detournent pas
sentiers de Dieu ; mais au contraire nous ayant
passer doucement les peu de jours qui nous restent
devant que nous entrons dans ces delices éternelles
qu'il nous prepare. Jusqu'à ce heureux moment,

Je suis, &c.

CXVI.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

HERE is so much in those little sheets you sent me
o thank you for, that finding myself very ill fitted
o do it, I was tempted to let it quite alone, till I
made shift to consider, that for the most part our
emotions incline us to the worst things, and to
he most forbidden tempers. This makes me rise
rom that listlessness I continually drop into, till I
have at least told you how sensible I am of your
kindness on all occasions; and I am sensible too

* Mons. Rouvigny, (eldest brother of the late earl of Galway) a gallant officer, slain fighting under king William, at the battle of the Boyne, July 1st, 1690.

conjecture . . .
battered carcase makes me ~~sullen~~
and though I lost with my best frie
lights of living, yet I find I did not a
new grief, for want of due consideri
ever below God is the object of ou
some time or other be the matter o
These two, my sister* and a dear sist
gan their course after me, but have e
I would have had it otherwise, but I
foolish in it : God knows where it i
his creatures. Your prayers are i
use than your fears, for my health
love greatly the prayers of my frie
be resigned in the case of my childr
has so experienced to me my sad
doubt myself, and humbly beg in
judgment that I may be spared tha

CXVII.

TO (*supposed*) THE BISHOP OF SALISBURY.

HAVE, my lord, so upright a heart to my friends, but though your great weight of business had forced you to a silence of this kind, yet I should have had no doubt, but that one I so distinguished a that little number God has yet left me, does join with me to lament my late losses. The one was a just, sincere man, and the only son of a sister and friend I loved with too much passion; the other my last sister, and I ever loved her tenderly.

It pleases me to think that she deserves to be remembered by all those that knew her. But after above forty years acquaintance with so amiable a creature, one must needs, in reflecting, bring to remembrance so many engaging endearments as are yet at present imbittering and painful; and indeed we may be sure, that when any thing below God is the object of our love, at one time or another it will be a matter of our sorrow. But a little time will put me again into my settled state of mourning; for a mourner I must be all my days upon earth, and there is no need I should be other. My jazz runs low; the world does not want me, nor I want that; my business is at home, and within narrow compass. I must not deny, as there was something so glorious in the object of my biggest sorrow, I believe that in some measure kept me from being then overwhelmed: so now it affords me, together with the remembrance how man-

that are joy
than a quiet
res in edu-
e cares that
trial, where
to bear the
think I ask
not in judg-
e, than they
aceful home
s. There is
re me, that I
use I cannot
nan a bigger
longer thread
every day we
nethinks it is

ude of these
murmurings.
will have no
rest satisfied,
ay be entirely
all do, will be
nd mercy. I
; but you have
/ infirmity, and
ad waste time,
times do not, I
However, it will
which I will do,

Yours, &c.

CXVIII.

TO LORD CAVENDISH.

THOUGH I know my letters do lord Cavendish no service, yet as a respect I love to pay him, and to thank him also for his last from Limbeck, I had not been so long silent, if the death of two persons, both very near and dear to me, had not made me so uncomfortable to myself, that I knew I was utterly unfit to converse where I would never be ill company. The separation of friends is grievous, My sister Montague was one I loved tenderly; my lord Gainsborough was the only son of a sister I loved with too much passion. They both deserved to be remembered kindly by all that knew them. They both began their race long after me, and I hoped should have ended it so too: but the great and wise Disposer of all things, and who knows where it is best to place his creatures, either in this or in the other world, has ordered it otherwise. The best improvement we can make in these cases, and you, my dear lord, rather than I, whose glass runs low, whilst you are young, and I hope have many happy years to come, is, I say, that we should all reflect there is no passing through this to a better world, without some crosses; and the scene sometimes shifts so fast, our course of life may be ended before we think we have gone half way; and that a happy eternity depends on our spending well or ill that time allotted us here for probation.

Live virtuously, my lord, and you cannot die too

TO DR. FITZWILLI

THOUGH your letter to me, wh^t
was writ from Windsor, 25th of
not read by me till very lately; fo
come in a time I was under some
nary discomposure of mind, it w^t
my hand, at least I knew it not, t
believe my servants laid it for me
to put things out of my pocket is
not to regard it in several day^s
said something upon it a little so
God's goodness in a great measur^e
fear for my poor boy, who on Tu
had so violent a cough, that in
suspicions of some other ill at
I thought most likely; and
Thursday, and so high, with
thought it the su

be so of the ill consequences which often follow that disease ; his cough is still remaining, and will now, I believe, till he purges or bleeds. I trust, that as I have had grace to ask it, so his life is granted me in mercy and not in judgment.

As to your affairs, they stand as they did for many reasons. I went that very Tuesday my child fell ill, to have seen the queen, in order a day or two after to have seen the princess ; but it so fell out, I saw neither, and must not for a while ; neither have I seen the dean* since you went the last time ; he had a severe cold upon him, and said he would go into the country for air. Your information concerning the dean, I believe in part to be true, but not in the whole ; as thus : I believe the dean thinks it is fit Mr. Hartlib should be considered ; but never pitched on this, or that, only that he should have something, but did not recommend him to this : and I conclude so far from this reason ; that when doctor Sharp spoke to the lord Nottingham, to desire so much as to know whether he had spoke to the king in such an one's behalf or not, that he might recommend such an one (Jekyl by name) or whether he would think fit to do it at all ? His answer was, it was out of his hand ; it lay between the king and the dean ; for Hartlib had been recommended, and the dean of St. Paul's had put in a caveat.

Now if the dean had recommended the man, he might then at the same time have obtained the condition, and not put in a caveat. So I do not go upon what the dean says, but what I gather other-

* Of St. Paul's, Dr. Tillotson.

be put upon any thing that will
to your circumstances.

As to the prebendary, I know
it. If you are not obliged to
you not modestly represent the r
be understood ? though I woul
cautious, and make sure of son
can be.

I am sorry you jar so with
sure was tender towards you i
this government, and you believ
good reason to do so; but it :
thing afterwards contrary to t
which I am also sorry for, ar
soften (for your own sake) as
You must needs think, doctor, t
the bishop of Ely has given, d
every one knowing your intir
there is no reason you should
you will not suffer from it. But
you should be a little more w

way than to call him to be often where he is. If you saw how many walks I fetch to my boy in a day, you would think I have done a great work to scribble all this, from

Your friend and servant,

5 February, 1690—1.

CXX.

ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

June 23, 1691.*

HONOURED MADAM,

I RECEIVED your ladyship's letter, together with that to Mr. Fox, which I shall return to him on Wednesday morning, when I have desired Mr. Kemp to send him to me.

I entreat you to give my humble service to my lord of Bedford, and to let his lordship know how far I have been concerned in this affair. I had notice first from Mr. Attorney-General and Mr. Solicitor, and then my lord * * *, that several persons, upon the account of publishing and dispersing several libels against me, were secured in order to prosecution : upon which I went to wait upon them severally, and earnestly desired of them, that body might be punished upon my account ; that was not the first time I had experience of this kind of malice, which, how unpleasant soever to I thought it the wisest way to neglect, and the to forgive it.† None of them said any thing to

rom his draught in short-hand.

'pon a bundle of libels found among his papers after

by ~~disposition~~
letter to Mr. Fox, are supported by a strong combination, I cannot but fit for my lord Bedford to bring them punishment.

Twice last week I had my pen ready to provoke you to a letter; and once in my life have been before-hand in this way of kindness. I was both ready by the breaking in of company upon whether it be from stupidity, or astonishment at the danger of myself from some other cause, I find that I dread so much, a good deal could have hoped. David's acknowledgement runs in my mind, "Who am I, O what is my house, that thou hast regarded me a

degree much beyond my expectation, is no small support to me ; and I flatter myself with hopes, that my friends will continue their kindness to me ; especially that the best friend I ever had will not be the less so to me now that I need friends most.

I pray to God continually to preserve you and yours ; and particularly at this time, to give my lady Cavendish a happy meeting with her lord, and to grant them both a long and happy life together.

I am, madam,
Your most faithful and humble servant.

CXXI.

TO (*supposed*) ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON.

In wants and distresses of all kinds one naturally flies to a sure friend, if one is blessed with any such. This is the reason of the present address to you, which is burthened with this request, if you think it fit, to give the enclosed to the queen. My letter is a petition to her majesty, to bestow upon a gentleman a place that is now fallen by the death of Mr. Herbert ; it is auditor of Wales, value about 400*l.* a year. He is, if I do not extremely mistake, fit for it, and worthy of it ; he is knight of the shire for Carmarthenshire : it would please me on several accounts, if I obtain it. Now every thing is so soon chopped upon and gone, that a slow way would defeat me, if nothing else does ; and that I fear from lord Devonshire if he was in town : *Besides, I should not so distinctly know the queen.*

answer -----
were more proper to send it
tary; but I am not versed in
so lately since I have loved
free, and do as you think mo

I intend not to detain you
public and signal mercies we
are so reviving, notwithstanding
mal scenes which are cons
particularly on these sad &
compassions of a wise and
sinking nations, and to the
the world over, and all go
my spirit all I can, and lab
spect of more happy days
than some ages have been
ness of those instruments
work this great work by,

yet I do sometimes submit, because I would not be quite useless to such as hope for some benefit by my means, and I desire to do what good I can.

I know your majesty feels that life is a labour to the highest ; but, madam, you are blessed with a portion of goodness big enough to be content with it, in order to serve those ends of Providence which are certainly wise and good, though dark to the inhabitants of the earth.

I do, in all humility, ask pardon for my request on the behalf of Mr. Richard Vaughan,* that he may succeed colonel Herbert (lately killed in Ireland) as auditor of Wales. He is a lawyer, a Welshman, and so well esteemed of in his country, that he serves as knight of the shire for Carmarthenshire. I believe him every way fit for the office, or I should not do so much for him, since I think it a great matter to disquiet your majesty in this kind ; and could with more joy pay a considerable duty to your majesty, than receive a profit for myself or friend ; but my meanness and my misfortunes are a bar to all such hopes.

I pray God still to direct and prosper your majesty, preserve the person of the king, and bless with success all his designs, and so complete his blessing and compassions to all good people all the world over. The late public mercies fills with hopes your majesty's

Most humble, most dutiful,
And most faithful servant.

24 July, 1691.

* Related to lady Russell's first husband.

judges so wrong of the kindness I do;
think she needs make an excuse for
I shall never think it a trouble to h
and should be very glad to do what y
as I was wholly unacquainted with
believe there is no great haste in the
left all who spoke to me at libert
themselves; so that it is likely the
disposed of it before I could let him
sire. If it comes time enough, I
he will be as willing to please you
myself.

You are very much in the right to
cause enough to think this life not s
it may be others do, that I lead at p
the pain I am almost continually in
it is so contrary to my own inclinat
be neither easy nor pleasant; but I
ever to live for one's self. I have ha
ease and content, and was not so sen
happiness as I ought till I lost it:

little good either from Flanders or sea. The king continues, God be praised, very well; and though I tremble at the thoughts of it, yet I cannot but wish a battle well over ; and for that at sea, I wish it as heartily as Mr. Russell himself.

I have heard nothing all this while of your petition, which I am sorry for, wishing for any occasion to shew how really I am, and always shall be

Your very affectionate friend.

Whitehall, July 30, 1691.

CXXIV.

TO (*supposed*) LADY ALINGTON.

I MIGHT have told you before you left us, my dear sister, that I took the opportunity I had of being alone with your father at the Lodge on Thursday, when you went to the leads, to speak to him in that concern you committed to me ; but being my success is not exactly suitable to your desires, I would not venture to abate of your good humour amongst so many of your friends that take so great a pleasure in it ; and to tell you true, I had rather write than speak, when what I have to say is not grateful, neither to me who am to speak, nor to them I am to speak it to. But thus it is : when I had spoke, my lord immediately replied, “ Daughter, this is not new to me ; I have been spoke to in it ; and I can give no other answer than I have done already ; which is, that I have lately disbursed great sums, and my estate stands charged with a considerable debt, which must be raised when I die ; but



I know not, but I
myself to be : if i
tle more weight t
weight of now fu
wonderfully supp
fidence I shall be
left to live. Ble
gives us joy, hope
whatever the met
be, the final issu
Were that blessed
and toils of life, he
the Psalmist says,
pleasures for ever
to this blessedness
price of his blood
stand in awe, and

CXXV.

TO (*supposed*) LADY ALINGTON.*

My dear sister, I have not yet had resolution to speak to you this way, nor know I now what to say. Your misfortune is too big to hope that any thing I offer can allay the present rage of your sorrow. I pray for you, and I pity you, which is all I can do; and that I do most feelingly, not knowing how soon your case may be mine; and I want from you, what I would most willingly furnish you with—some consolation and truce from your extreme lamentation.

I hope that by this time your reason begins to get a power over your wasted spirits, and that you will let nature relieve herself. She will do it, if you do not obstruct her. There is a time and period for all things here. Nature will first prevail, but as sooh as we can we must think what is our duty, and pursue it as well as we are able. I beseech God to teach you to submit to this unlooked-for, and, in appearance, sadly severe providence, and endow you with a quiet spirit, to wait for the day of consolation, when joy will be our portion to all eternity: in that day we shall meet again all our pious friends; all that have died in their innocence; and with them live a life of innocence, and purity, and gladness for ever. Fit your thoughts with these undoubted truths, my dear sister,

* On the death of one of her daughters.

he cer.....
refreshments. I am

10 Oct. 1691.

CXXVI.

TO * * * *

THE misfortunes of such as one ex
grow our own; so that if my cor
were not so soon touched as it is
accidents, I should yet feel a great
mourning: if sharing a calamity
that burden would be little; fo
age as we live in, there is such a
goodness, that all the world lame
yet, sure, madam, when we p
--- that is excellent. it

CXXVII.

TO MR. OWEN.

SIR,

How welcome the question I have to ask you will be, I know not, but I am much mistaken if the answer be not to my satisfaction.

I have had advice, and that but very lately, that my lord Cavendish's friends intend to set him up for Westminster. He is come over, and now with me. I know you were invited by your friends to stand, and therefore suppose you have had an intent to do so. How far you are engaged I know not, nor how strong you find your interest. I do very well remember you asked me to speak to my lord Bedford for his; I did it, and his answer was, he wished you a parliament-man with all his heart, because he thought you would vote well for your country; but having appeared for Phil. Howard, he did not care to be forward in opposing him if he stood. Now I have heard nothing of your concerns since this, and my lord Bedford was so favourable in the matter, that he meant to move no way in it, till now he understands that lord Cavendish looks after it. You may believe he cordially assists him: lord Clare does so too, who else assisted Mr. Bridgeman; but he now wants none, having submitted to a signification given him not to pretend to stand if lord Cavendish did, it being of great concernment that he should not be baffled. Sir Stephen Fox thinks no more of it neither, for as soon as lord

est ; therefore I would fain have
trial of skill between the two
not so well do if lord Cavendi
head of one of them, and the
if you desist. And indeed it
gratification to the Tories to r
what they have so lately lost
their credit in elections.

Now, Mr. Owen, I should
nion honestly in this matter ;
I am greatly concerned in it,
on in relation to you, who a
ance than you are to any of
mily. I would by no means i
lord Cavendish contest in thi
now at his first entrance into
good will of so many persons
approved of by his maestv is

All these things you can weigh much juster than I can lay them before you ; and you know your strength, and what may weaken it, if you please to consider it ; and when you have done so, if you resolve to oppose us, tell me ingenuously as much, and if you please, your reasons against my lord's standing, and for your own : it will oblige,

Sir,

Yours, &c.

23 Oct. 1691.

CXXVIII.

TO QUEEN MARY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,
THE king's safe return into England is so great a subject for rejoicing, with all the other mercies of this year, as it gives me courage to take upon me to congratulate to your majesty so blessed and so desired a providence, most especially to yourself, and then to all your people, that the intolerable temper of envy and faction does not influence ; blessed be God that their fault becomes their punishment.

My mind being as it ought to be, as full of the present public joy as I am capable of, I am unwilling to put any thing in this paper that is of little moment, or looks like a particular interest. But, because I am very tender of multiplying these kind of troubles to your majesfy, and am also encouraged from your being pleased to take notice I had not presented my petition that I had humbly asked

you would not like this, I have addressed my majesty; and if I may obtain so much grace as my success, though my request was much bigger than it is.

But if this is too much to ask, I humbly hope fault may not be too great for your majesty's giveness to your majesty's

Most dutiful and most obedient sub-

Woburn Abbey, 23 Oct. 1691.

CXXIX.

TO LADY DERBY.

As my lady Derby is never wanting, so I

arted, my lady Devonshire not being in town ;
the lord gives me so good a reason for it (as the
is being best pleased it should be so,) that if I
uthority to do it, I would not keep her, since
I have all that is mine to pay, as I will ever
ree obedience to all her majesty's orders. I
she will quite lose her credit for a dancer,
nd she cannot walk one dance out, it is so
nce she learned, and she will have so little
practise ; but I encourage her to be con-
do ill, rather than do nothing when the
bids her do something. She will still grow
I hope, every way a great while. I beg a
nd pardons of my lady Derby for so long a
now, and so lasting an one as I have taken
rt to ask of her ; but a mother's concern
trust, excuse all the importunities of one
with true and great respect,

Your ladyship's.

1691.

CXXX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

emely well pleased, good doctor, to see
u you : not that I ever was so injurious
believe I had less of your respect when
f your letters ; and I expect the same
our part towards me, and I believe I
ever, it is well to express it some-
last I writ to you lies now in my
, over the chimney, with one en-

VERS.

, and one other to
how to direct to
sor. I heard last
, and was glad she
r was better since
we her mother her
has a lusty grand-
ibble longer to you,
oy is so earnest at
I cannot deny him,
g,
iend and servant.

my
to
pr:
wi
an
th
ac
of
hi
ir
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I
gi
se
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R
b
s
a
t
i
c

LIAM.

∴ Fitzwilliam knows
I have never doubt-
receiving so well as I
, that morning I left
note, verily meaning
you, I gave no answer
ne went without any;
nother so hurried the
t I never remembered
and not being put in
vexation when I did

ie, when I was come
next week writing to
e first post of that next,

my thoughts grew too intent upon the sea affair to write letters : but God's holy name be ev praised for the happy close of that great busines which is marvellous in our eyes. May our prais and thanksgivings in some measure correspond the good we have received, and that our bigge acknowledgments may not be expressed in ringh of bells and making of bonfires ; but in recountin his many, and wonderful, and glorious mercies, as in carefully walking more obediently to his law which is all we can return to our benefactor.

Notwithstanding our differences in some thing I am sure doctor Fitzwilliam joins his thank givings with me in this victory over that proud pe secutor of the protestant religion. The expre this morning tells us, that the twelve ships admir Russell had pursued to the French shore were : burnt ; the six biggest on Monday night, and t six less on Tuesday morning, with all their gun and ammunition ; six were three deck ships, at the other six ; the least was of sixty guns. The fie is now divided into three parts : the admiral wh one to Brest, to try if he can do any thing there one of the less is to go to eastward, to look aft six French ships said to be gone that way ; and t other to cross between England and Dunkirk. believe your newspapers at Chiltern tell you al but being there is nothing newer, I would do too ; and as one can say nothing but what woul be dull after what I have said, I will conclud this from

Your friend and servant.

May 26, 1692.

TO I

I WILL say but littl
long without hear
much to my justific
come to the more to
last letter; not but
if I suspected you b
towards you; I dare
pearances, and othe
In short, my daught
me twice a day to A
till twelve and one o'
ness, being near le
serving me no longe
haps was the biggest

LADY RUSSELL'S LETTERS.

mercy, to do it. I hope I may conclude without sinning; yet I cannot attain to th God, and submission to all his providenc can rejoice in: however, I bless him for hi mercy, in a support that is not wrought i world (thong my heart is too much boun the blessings I have yet left) and I hope ch has enabled me to rejoice in him as my eve portion, and in the assured hope of good th the other world.

Good doctor, we are travelling the same and hope, through mercy, to meet at the happy end of all our labours here, in an e rest; and it is of great advantage to that ai ment, communicating pious thoughts to each o nothing on this side heaven goes so near to it: being where God is, it is heaven. If he be in hearts, there will be peace and satisfaction, w one recollects the happiness of such a state (wh if my heart deceives me not, I hope is mine,) as will try to experience more and more that bles promise—"Come unto me all ye that are hei laden, and I will give you ease." This day and subject inclines me to be very long, and might another be too tedious: but I know it is not so Dr. Fitzwilliam, who uses to feast in the house mourning. However, my time to open my ch ber-door is near; and I take some care not to fect in these retirements. In all circumstance remain,

Sir,

Your constantly obliged friend and servant

July 21, 1692.

RUSSELL'S LETTERS.

CXXXIII.

LADY • • • RUSSELL.

tallate with my sister Russell, it
the subject of death, when I have
it month been reflecting on what I
I yet what can I say more, than
you, that it is a solemn thing to
sequences of death to believers and
at it is a contemplation ought to
ke us diligent for the approaching
wn ; yet I doubt it does so but on
I are one of those happy ones, I
ew no more reason for it than the
f yours, that the bare meditation
rovoke to care ; for when a heart
ed, it will act ; and who has, per-
lute surrender of herself, so knit
as will make her dear in his sight.
umerable obligations to be his en-
ng should be so attracting to us,
, love in sending his Son : but my
ow for earthly losses makes me
ordinately ; and my profit in the
ty has been small, or I should have
my mourning into rejoicing than
d such a friend to lose ; that I
own soul take such a prosr
him, when brought to :
k and shaded valley ()
aversion of separat

LADY RUSSELL'S LETTERS.

fearing evil: for if we, in our limited degoodness, will not forsake those that depend much less can God cast us from him, when to him in our calamity; and though he de earnest and repeated prayers, yet he has no me the support of his holy spirit, in this day of calamity, but enabled me in some to rejoice in him as my portion for ever; provided a remedy for all our griefs, by promises of another life, where there is no nor any pain or trouble, but a fulness of joy presence of God, who made us, and loves ever.

CXXXIV.

TO LADY SUNDERLAND.

YOUR kind letter, madam, asks me to do m ter for myself and mine, than to scribble so fically as I do in a piece of paper; but for several reasons yours must have the advant offer me with obliging earnestness a thousan greater than I deserve, or there can be ca but that you have taken a resolution to be ness and favour to me. And indeed what mark can you almost give than rememberin often, and letting me receive the exceeding tage of your doing so, by reading your which are all so edifying? When I know continually engaged in so great and necess plements as you are, and have but too health, which to any other in the world

if one strictly considers, is
ings; for even the conver-
as to spiritual profits, as yo
the nearest approach we ca
we live in these tabernacle
temporal sense also, the m
profitable improvement we
we are to spend on earth.
our bodies are out of tun
what in itself is so precie
we choose, if we can attain
may take off our sense of p
we know in worth excels
No soul can speak more
self on this subject; who
ships have made all the joy
and yet who would live an

scribbled a great deal of paper; I dare not read it, eat I should be sorry lady Sunderland should: and et can now send her nothing if not this; for my yes grow ill so fast, I resolve to do nothing of this ort by candle-light.

CXXXV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

HAVE not used to be so long without holding a orrespondence with my good friend doctor Fitzwilliam; but I can do no more as I have done, therefore do works of necessity in the first place; and when I think I have not done too much, I proceed o those of pleasure. If I had found leisure to be o employed, you had been told sooner that I have eceived yours of the 23d of August. I thank you, lr, for all in it; and would gladly say something o-every thing in particular, but I must restrain my esires, being resolved to be strict in observing the irections I am under for my bad eyes, which I am ot sensible I hurt by what I can do, which is wring; as for reading, I am past that contentment, specially print; your hand is plain, and so wellnown to me, I can yet make shift to see it; and while I can, desire to do so, if you please.

I have had a strong inclination to have discoursed business of weight with you, no less than the marriage of my daughter: if lady Gainsborough hought of it, you had a hint of it earlier than al-most any body from me. I do own when it was st proposed, I was as it were surprised; but when

~~NOT REPRODUCIBLE~~

ginary religious scruple. For as, on I am joyful to see my daughters be best fortunes in England, so, on th had a kingdom with his, I would not her knowingly in circumstances that God's blessing would not go with. E is just, as agreeing with the word of marriage after it certainly to be so estate, we enjoy them by man's law, can alter, and so may alter again risk I am willing to run, if there sh left.

The young people have just seen He is a pretty youth, and, as I am

* In 1670, John lord Roos, or Ross (the duke of Rutland,) who had married lady daughter to Henry, marquis of Dorchester two sons, having brought proofs of adult obtained a sentence of divorce in the s amounted only to a separation from
- - - - - to dissolve the bond; s

bred, and is free from all ill; his tutor was with him: he is a non-swearer, a divine, a man of parts, they say, and a good liver. You see, though I may not think the better of him, I do not think the worse. This is the business sticks closest to my thoughts, and so I am apt to enlarge to such friends as you. For the chat of the town, as the successor to my poor sister,* &c. I will not venture to hurt my eyes for it; so will close this from

Your faithful friend and servant.

19 September, 1692.

CXXXVI.

QUEEN MARY TO LADY RUSSELL.

I CONFESS myself lazy enough in writing, yet that has not hindered my answering lady Russell's letter, but staying for Mr. Russell's own answer, to which you referred me.

I have seen him this day, and find he is resolved to be Mr. Russell still: I could not press him farther in a thing he seem'd so little to care for; so there is an end of that matter. Whether the king will think I have done it enough or no I cannot tell, but it is not in my nature to compliment, which makes me always take people at their words. I was glad to hear lord Bedford is so well, and that your eyes are no worse.

* Lord Montague's second wife was Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Cavendish, duke of Newcastle, widow of Christopher Monk, duke of Albemarle.

weather for his journey.

I shall say no more nor
can more sincerely wish
faction in what you are so
than I do, who am really
all occasions,

Your

Whitehall, 18 Oct. 1692.

CXX

TO DR. FLETCHER

WHILE I can see at all,
than I can when God has
darkness shall fall upon us
of all society at a distance

daily prayers are to be directed by his holy-Spirit, and that it may proceed or fall as he in mercy sees it best. I cannot write long enough together, to say much to the argument you do gently hint your mind concerning it. He has been here a week, and there appears no disposition in him that is blameable, though his age is not enough to compose him skilful in disguise, and so with art to conceal his inclinations; neither are his tender years proof against impressions, and imbibing bad as well as good. The gentleman you mentioned was with him, and, I believe, has done well his duty. His want of complaisance gives me no prejudice, or so little, that if he were my son, I would put him into his hands from me, for some time, to the university, where I think our nobility should pass some of their time: it has been for many years neglected; I must use that term, because I think it a proper one.

We are, God prospering our intentions, as near our remove to London, as the middle of this month is to us, where I should hope to meet lady Gainsborough, but that your last hints nothing of it. Pray present my most humble service unto her, and continue just to me, in believing me to be

Your faithful

And affectionate friend to serve you.

5 November, 1692.

on a word from dear
my acknowledgment
too well acquainted
to believe you will
thanks to any disres^t
the trouble of readin
and that I have those
that it is impossible
to spare my pains or
you any real service.

I hope your ladysh
believe that the acc
Evers being now on
hopes you give me to
June at Woburn, gave
that you will add to th
to yourself, and dear
then you cannot hnt ,

CXXXIX.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

THE kindest marks you can give me, good doctor, of your having me in your thoughts, I received as you designed I should before, and yet very near the day that I must ever give a solemn regard to; but alas! my bad eyes serve me now so little, that I could not read your papers, and tell you that I had done so in one day. It is mortifying, yet I hope I do not repine; but, on the contrary, rejoice in the goodness of my God to me, that when I feared the utter loss of sight, has let me thus long see the light, and by it given me time to prepare for that day of bodily darkness which perhaps must soon overtake me. And what a grace is it that I should first settle my two daughters, as I expect to do! though as near as we take this in hand to be, it may never take effect; nay, shall not (if God is pleased to grant my request,) unless it be a thing pleasing in his sight, and which his blessing shall go along with.

I am apt to say unless they shall be happy in it, but I find a distinction to be made between being pleasing in God's sight, and their being happy, as we term it; that is, being full of worldly enjoyments, and taking excessive delight in their enjoyments. This God may withhold in mercy to their future good. So that I consider, if the act is acceptable to him, all shall work to their good (if they ~~were~~ and serve him,) but whether by a prosperous, per-

A.M.
Woburn Abbey, 25 Ju

SIR JAMES FORE

MADAM,
I COULD not miss thi
ladyship some account
journey,† and their
looked more like the
through their countr
bridegroom going ho
At their first entry i
received by the high
gentlemen of the con

people, who came from all places of the country to see her, and to wish them both joy, even with huzzas and acclamations.

As they drew near to Belvoir, our train increased, with some coaches, and with fresh troops of aldermen and corporations, besides a great many clergymen, who presented the bride and bridegroom (for so they are still called) with verses upon their happy marriage.

I cannot better represent their first arrival at Belvoir, than by the Woburn song that lord Bedford liked so well; for at the gate were four-and-twenty fiddlers all in a row; four-and-twenty trumpeters, with their tan tara ra ra's; four-and-twenty ladies, and as many parsons; and in great order they went in procession to the great apartment, where the usual ceremony of saluting and wishing of joy passed, but still not without something represented in the song, as very much tittle-tattle, and fiddle-fiddle: after this the time passed away till supper, in visiting all the apartments of the house, and in seeing the preparations for the sack posset, which was the most extraordinary thing I did ever see, and much greater than it was represented to be. After supper, which was exceeding magnificent, the whole company went in procession to the great hall; the bride and bridegroom first, and all the rest in order, two and two; there it was the scene opened, and the great cistern appeared, and the healths began; first in spoons; some time after in silver cups; and though the healths were many, and great variety of names given to them, it was observed, after one hour's hot service, the posset did not sink above one inch, which made my lady

Your most h

1693.

ARCHBISHOP TILLI

MADAM,
THOUGH nobody re
happiness of your
the hurry in which
could not think it
so much as of a
in friendship and
great occasion.

I entreat my lord Ross and his lady to accept of my humble service, and my hearty wishes of great and lasting happiness.

My poor wife is at present very ill, which goes very near me; and having said this, I know we shall have your prayers. I entreat you to give my humble service to my lord of Bedford, and my lord Avendish and his lady. I could, upon several accounts, be melancholy, but I will not upon so joyful an occasion. I pray God to preserve and bless our ladyship, and all the good family at Woburn, and to make us all concerned to prepare ourselves with the greatest care for a better life.

I am, with all true respect and esteem,
Madam,
Your ladyship's most faithful
And most humble servant.

CXLII.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

You will be so just to me, good doctor, as never to distrust my silence; if I did not believe so, I should be in some pain now, having two letters from you to me, that if I am not very unworthy will make me take a pleasure to say something in return of so much good will; and it is then an ill mark not to have writ in so long a time, being I know none but that are self-lovers enough to do what pleases them. Yet so has been my case; I would have been glad to have conversed with you, good doctor, but

so like

mistress of no time,
lived in a continual noise and ...
I did excuse my going to Belvoir wi
pany, but followed them before I ha
self of all my formal congratulation
more than a very little at a time,
ache ; and that I am sure is naught, &
ls too precious a good to be neglecte

I thank you, sir, for all your thou
ject which filled mine this last ye
attempt to say any thing in return :
long a discourse for me this way.
done my duty well to my daughte
shall enjoy a lasting happiness ;
prayer is, that the end of their fa
vation of their souls ; that they m
such graces here, as may fit the
state hereafter.

of life. I apprehend but one inconveniency, if you do a little less sequester yourself, and that I hope you are of a more temperate spirit than to draw on yourself; but you are best judge. I exceed my bounds exceedingly, for I take little paper to night, no more than one side, not to turn over, for if I do, this is the issue. Farewell, good doctor, for this time.

I am constantly your friend to serve you.

18th Sept. 1693.

CXLIII.

ARCHBISHOP TILLOTSON TO LADY RUSSELL.

Lambeth House, 13th Oct. 1693.

I HAVE forborne, madam, hitherto, even to acknowledge the receipt of your ladyship's letter, and your kind concernment for mine and my wife's health, because I saw how unmerciful you were to your eyes in your last letter to me; so that I should certainly have repented the provocation I gave you to it by mine, had not so great and good an occasion made it necessary.

I had intended this morning to have sent Mr. Vernon to Woburn, to have inquired of your ladyship's health, having but newly heard, that since your return from Belvoir, a dangerous fever had seized upon you. But yesterday morning, at council, I happily met with Mr. Russell, who to my great joy, told me, that he hoped that danger was over; for which I thank God with all my heart, be-

RUSSELL'S LETTERS.

now how fatal the event might be,
and hurry you have been in, and in
n.

return is now only hindered by con-
pray God to send him safe to us,
im what to do when he is come. I
uch at my wit's end concerning the
only can bring us out of the labyrinth
I trust he will.
es her most humble service and thanks
our concernment for her, and does re-
with me for the good news of your

ce I knew the world had I so much
lue my friends. In the condition I now
ave no new ones ; or, if I could, I can
urance that they are so. I could not at
believe that the upper end of the world
low as I find it. I except a very few, of
believe no ill till I plainly see it.
ever earnestly coveted your letters ; but
, as earnestly beg of you to spare them for
as well as your own. With my very hum-
ce to my good lord of Bedford, and to all
nd my hearty prayers to God for you all, I

God
Thou
ting,
you n
whic
pain
the
eaga
bra
sho
you
you
ar
v

Madam,
Your ladyship's most obliged
And obedient servant,*

a archbishop's correspondence with Lady Russell had
terrupted on her part for many months, by the dis-
n her eyes increasing to such a degree, that she was
on the 27th of June, 1694, to submit to the dis-
couching. Upon this occasion his grace drew up

CXLIV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

GOOD DOCTOR,
THOUGH I will not say I am to blame in not writing, yet I pronounce myself so, by not taking care you might know I had your letter, and the book, which was writ with so much care, that I ffound no pain at all in reading it. I cannot say the like to the doubtfulness of thoughts I perceive you, sir, engaged in. I am not furnished with abilities, (my brains and eyes would both fail me in the task) if I should attempt to effect what I wish. So I leave you to yourself, being satisfied you are not so grievously wanting to yourself, as not to have sought all arguments to convince your judgment that you might honestly submit to the present government, which by the wonderful providence of God is established in these nations, for maintaining the protestant religion in its purity, both at home and

prayer two days after, in which he touched upon the death of her husband, "whom the holy and righteous Providence (says he) permitted [under a colour of law and justice] to be [unjustly] cut off from the land of the living." But over the words between the brackets, after the first writing, he drew a line, as intending to erase them, probably from a reflection that they might be too strong, or less suitable to a prayer. June 28, he wrote to the bishop of Salisbury, "I cannot forbear to tell you, that my lady Russell's eye was couched yesterday morning with very good success; God be praised for it."—*Birch.*

or : And as all the
good, and what we h
displeasure, why you
blessed fruits of it,
for ; and so I have
much more, that I ar
your own scruples be
a case to engage you
the true and heroic :
towards perfection,
should, especially, en
the example, comfort
member, good docto
be the issue, which G
has, in appearance, i
all who have accepted
hardly of. I know
though you cannot :

A pass, I suppose, is no difficult thing to obtain. I have scribbled so much, I must not engage in telling stories of my son. In short, if they do not deceive me whom I trust, all goes very well. I intend ever to remain, as I am at present,

Good doctor Fitzwilliam's
Faithful friend and servant.

Oxford, 17th May, 1696.

CXLV.

TO DR. FITZWILLIAM.

MANY obstacles have been in my way to prevent my taking notice that I have received lately two letters from you, good doctor; observe, I say, giving you notice that I had them; for as to the answering them, I am not so conceited of myself to go about it. I will only say, that I am glad nothing of such a nature can be put upon me as should try my strength both of judgment and fortitude, which I mistrust would both prove very weak; whilst in the mean time I see men, whose sincerity and ability I have equal value for, point blank contrary one to the other; yet both will be, I doubt not, accepted at the great day of trial; and therefore I will take leave, sir, to wish you converted.

Because I know I cannot manage the argument, I will give it over, lest I hurt the cause I would give credit to. If I had a better talent, I would not give you over as I must do; nor, however, (*it is possible*) if I had the sight I had once; but, as it is; I must be content, and am thankfully so.

Your f.
Oxford, 15th

[N. B. So
having
Russel
ladyshi
of whic

BISHOP OF

I do heartily
this new blesse
with relation
good etc.

so that it may in every one of these answer those blessings by an exemplary holiness, and that both you and they may be public blessings to the age and nation.

I do not think of coming up yet this fortnight, if I am not called for.* I humbly thank your ladyship for giving me this early notice of so great a blessing to you. I hope it shall soon be completed by my lady Ross's full recovery. Mrs. Burnet is very sensible of the honour your ladyship does her in thinking of her, and does particularly rejoice in God's goodness to you. I am, with the highest sense of gratitude and respect possible,

Madam,

Your ladyship's most humble, most obedient,
And most obliged servant.

Salisbury, 31st Oct. 1696.

* The marquis of Halifax said of bishop Burnet,—“ He makes many enemies, by setting an ill-natured example of living, which they are not inclined to follow. His indifference for preferment, his contempt not only of splendor, but of all unnecessary plenty, his degrading himself into the lowest and most painful duties of his calling, are such unprelatical qualities, that, let him be never so orthodox in other things, in these he must be a dissenter. Virtues of such a stamp are so many heresies in the opinion of those divines who have softened the primitive injunctions, so as to make them suit better with the present frailty of mankind. No wonder then, if they are angry, since it is in their own defence; or that from a principle of self-preservation they should endeavour to suppress a man whose parts are shame, and whose life is a scandal to them.”—Both he and Tillotson, as well as many other Christian bishops, were averse to pluralities and non-residence.

SIR ROBERT
If my letters
reserve them
my own by it,
rand of this pa
please to give it
you. By the c
there wants a l
vicar at Michelde
posed to receive
of the gift, and
should know an
friend you might
I am persuaded t
of the matter, an
you know any vic

have told you the provision I would make for curates. I have met with a paper signed by Mr. Morin to my father, in which he engages to allow the curate at Kingsworthy fifty pounds a year; and that at Stratton, who served Popham also, thirty pounds a year; Northington is not mentioned in it. Now, sir, I would, in short, have the same stipends, as this paper signifies were formerly agreed on, to be honestly made good by the next incumbent, and during my pleasure. There will be ten pounds a year more coming in to him than has been formerly; and as much to the curate who serves Stratton; for a few years ago my dear lord added twenty pounds a year, during his will to do so, to be so divided, and without a very justifiable reason I shall not withhold it; and forty shillings a year more to the vicar, upon an agreement for some orchards taken into the park.

From this long digression I return to my question, which arises from this purpose of mine that I must offer to you. I know it is a thing required by many to take a bond for resigning at the patron's pleasure. I have no disposition at all to do so; but to this I have, that I would have a bond to perform these conditions to the curates, unless I dispense with him; and also, that in case of non-residence, he shall resign to me.* For the case often happens, they get another living, and the situation it may be more pleasant; then put in a curate for a small sti-

* Residence would, at the council of Trent, have been declared to be *jure divino*, which the pope himself could not dispense with, but that it was over-ruled by the intrigues of his creatures; so that, however insisted on by some bishops, they prevented its being so decreed.

reason. But if
practicable, I sh
discourse Mr. S
Mr. Mewes to d
poses I have sign
be ready to—

TO

SIR,

I RATHER choose
letter, than be want
missive manner in
honour and favour.

ner, to the best of their services; in which I earnestly desire my son Bedford may exceed, as he has been first, and early honoured with the marks of your favour: and I hope I may live to see your majesty has bestowed one more upon him, who appears to me to have no other ambition, except what he prefers above all others, making himself acceptable to your majesty, and living in your good opinion.

I presume to say, I believe there is no fault in his intentions of duty towards your majesty, nor, I trust, ever will be; and that as his years increase, his performances will better declare the faithfulness of his mind, which will hugely enlarge the comforts of

Your majesty's most humble, most dutiful,
And most obedient servant.

N. B. Lady Russell's endorsement on the foregoing letter, is in these words:

*To the king, 1701-2, about first of March, and found
in his pocket when dead.*

ALAS ! my dear lord Galway, i
all disorder, confusion, and
think I am very uncapable of as
I should.

I did not know the greatnes
person, till I could see it no m
who will be mistress, has in e
time, relieved herself, then, t
trust the Goodness, which hi
whose power is irresistible, w
grace to rest contented with w
vidence has appointed and per
feel ease in this contemplation
thing uncomfortable in his deat
His God was, I verily believe,
Towards his last hours he ca

ained he could not pray his prayers. To what vered, he said, he wished for more time to up his accounts with God ; then with rerance to his sisters, and telling me how good ind his wife had been to him, and that he I have been glad to have expressed himself to aid something to me and my double kindness wife, and so died away. There seemed no ncy to leave this world, patient and easy the time, and I believe knew his danger, but, loath e those by him, delayed what he might have But why all this ? The decree is past. I do k your prayers ; I know you offer them with ity to our Almighty God for

Your afflicted kinswoman.

, 1711.

CL.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

LORD,

I been for some weeks often resolved, and as unresolved, if I would or would not engage subject I cannot speak to without some emot but I cannot suffer your being a stranger to at very near concerns me : yet before I could e myself to do it, concluded the article not a to you, such care having by one side been , as to let it be a visiting day affair, whether t the D. of R**** had not fixed a second , perhaps as proper to call it the first ; for marriages are so very early, it is acceptin

... and then, by a
and impartial kindness, a
portion, by adding to wh
is to me the most solid i
love he can now give to
believe it done with an
value of her, and all her
be wrong in me to take
stances the censorious pa
to do, and refine upon, fo
the hearing, by seeing few
tions.*

The first notice I had o
Charlton, and I really be
he had given himself his c
he found him under great
quaalnted him with his tho
under all the anxieties a m:

now I would begin to him. I did so, which put
is both in some disorder, but I believe he took, as
meant it, kindly.

A decency in time was all I expected. The per-
on is sister to the present lord Sherard; the other
ister had been a widow to a lord Erwin, and some
years ago married a brother of the duchess of Rut-
and, a Mr. Noel,* who has been a companion to
is nephew ever since our sorrowful time. Here is
general opinion that the lord St. John † is gone
o Paris; some will suppose it is to try if the French
ing will come up to the terms the Dutch will ac-
ept.

5th August, 1712.

CLI.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

HE change of your secretary is much to the ad-
antage of the reader; it would be so to you, I con-
lude, if I did not choose to be my own; but when
write as I do to you, the amusement is more
greeable to myself, and I assure myself you will
ake it so to you, if you can find what I mean to
ay; for I know I am exceeding apt to miss words
meant to put down. However, unless the busi-

* John Noel, brother to the duchess of Rutland, married
Elizabeth, eldest sister to Bennet, earl of Harborough, and
idow of Edward Ingram, viscount Irwin, in Scotland.
† Lord St. John, afterwards viscount Bolingbroke, fa-
sus for his share in the peace of Utrecht, &c.

their good mothe
though it might
want her, yet her
behalf had been
pears blameable in
may hurt in their
part, if he is hone
of writings, he put
any attempt for it.
cidents in families
while the world la
to secure our nex
little how this pass
at pain, and want o
natural to do so. I
affected force ? and
this ; you want no :

but to cut that short, it is entailed, and I must leave it so. The warrener must be bribed, not me.

I am thankful to God I have made an end between Mr. Sp * * * and myself, &c. Now as I am to answer for Mr. Sp * * * who was an accountant to me, being employed by me so; there is this article between him and me, that if at any time there is discovery of any money, or debt due to him, I have the title to it, and not he, let it be much or little.

After many offers and endeavours by counsel and without, I came to this agreement:—He was to make a clear and full discovery of all he is worth lands, leases, monies, goods, debts, &c. Then I who was to have the whole in me, allow back to him what I think will be a subsistence to him, his wife, and children: and so I have done. Swearing is what I desire to excuse; for it is possible he might be tempted to proceed in doing ill, and I ne'er the better; and if he had sworn truth, as other professed they would not believe him, though I at least free in the professing of it, I might have doubted: then why provoke him to sin?

What has been urged to me over and over again many times, has no force in it; which was, that they would undertake, and are sure he could conceal ten thousand pounds, which I should never discover either in this nation or India. My answer is, if I cannot ever be found, it is to me as if it were not and if I had any opinion of a conjurer, (as we call them) I would not seek it that way. So what approved best of, I chose.

That if a discovery be made out, it is to my use. Now the farm he has from his father, which is for a year, I could not come at, all counsel agree-

to the end of the year
Selwood was one of the seven
counsel. Also, he said
thousand pounds of me to be at.
But all this avails
prison; nay, dying on a diet.
At last I gave no further trouble
(dured so much myself) from
lawyer, though not now
After two hours discourse
him, he told me it was the
compound the matter;
good composition, where
or eight thousand pounds
between two or three. His
opinion of making an
prayed and exhorted me

'If it were his case.'

more at rest as to all my worldly concerns. Here
I ask of lord Galway * * *

Saturday, 16 August, 1719.

CLII.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

I HAVE before me, my good lord, two of your letters : both, partially and tenderly kind, and coming from a sincere heart and honest mind, (the last a plain word, but, if I mistake not, very significant) are very comfortable to me, who I hope have no proud thoughts of myself, as to any sort. The opinion of an esteemed friend, that one is not very wrong, assists to strengthen a weak and willing mind to do her duty towards that Almighty Being, who has from infinite bounty and goodness so chequered my days on this earth, as I can thankfully reflect I have felt many, I may say many years, of pure, and, I trust, innocent, pleasant content, and happy enjoyments as this world can afford, particularly that biggest blessing of loving and being loved by those I loved and respected : on earth no enjoyment certainly to be put in balance with it. All other are like wine, intoxicates for a time, but the end is bitterness, at least not profitable. Mr. Waller (whose picture you look upon) has, I long remember, these words—

All we know they do above,
Is, that they sing, and that they love.

* Conclusion in another paper not found.

~~even~~
enjoyed without ~~nature~~

The queen has appointed the
drawing-room, and several tables
there was none till yesterday, and
I know not.

I heard a lady say yesterday, that
had turned away four servants for
bottles, and that she had taste
which was very good.*

CLIII.

TO THE EARL OF

THERE is no post-day I do not
disposed to take my pen, and
~~there is not one of th~~

from bodily pains, which so many better than I suffer : at this age I have attained there are few more exempt.

Selwood tells me your appearance is very comfortable, and if I get to Hampshire I trust I shall see it so. Sure this season is a trial ; for although it is a customary thing to complain of seasons, yet in my opinion this is an extraordinary one : I have not wanted to observe (except while I enjoyed lady Betty Norton's* company, who gave me much of her time) that from the first day of March to this, there hath not been twenty-four hours without much rain, snow, or hail. It keeps lord Devon from Newmarket, which he expects would be of use if he could get thither. He is put into a coach, and is carried on the stones, but cannot use his feet to go ; it is a melancholy sight to see a young man so seized, but his patience keeps an equality with his trials. A just measure of patience in all one suffers (I conclude yourself proves it very notoriously from a variety of instances) may it ever be a comfort in our best hours ! and then how ravishing the great day of the Lord ! the day of recompense ! for such we are allowed to call it ! Madame Governe's brother being dead, madame may dispose of his wealth as she thinks good in France, &c.

14 April, 1715.

* Daughter of lord Gainsborough, (by Elizabeth, sister to lady Russell) married to —— Norton, esq.

* but the merciful p
duty to pray for and trus
in the end, in this worl
God to give the consol
enable you to struggle
siguation I have no dout
when the weight is hea
will not be imputed, be

I also pray to God
every trial ; till eternit
all our sorrows, all
our pains in this life
eternity ! All these
improve my weak
mind, experience, &
and I pray for such
secure a

CLV.

OP OF LICHFIELD AND COVENTRY*
TO LADY RUSSELL.

M,

I have done myself this honour long since, have had the vanity to think I knew any which would not come to your ladyship by unds; but you, madam, have account of the important matters from persons who cannot ved; and, I am sure, you are above the f those common things which supply the d conversation of the town.

ot, however, leave this place (which I pur-
lo on Monday next) without presenting my
able respects to your ladyship, and my sin-
yers to Almighty God for health and hap-
yourself and all yours.

e a place which is now pretty empty since
family went to Hampton-court, where the
anner in which the king lives makes it the
us, not only of the ministers and great
t of the people of all ranks and conditions.
openly and with company every day, and
ity of the sight draws a mighty concourse.
long a reserve, we may easily imagine how
constraint he puts upon himself; but he
does a right thing, for by this means his
ich speaks nothing but what is great and

Hough, afterwards called the good bishop of Wor-
tly promoted the Revolution; died March 8, 1743,
92.

depends the establish
have already felt ho
shaken us ; but there
pearance that way : t
dark side of our prosp
has already carried so
our own heads, one
heavy this may fall.*
where I resolve to mal
as possible, for they
thought, and raise app
by an hundred ways u
may please to disappc
your ladyship, because
very few who can ma
using them as occasion
lic welfare, without suff
or disturb your mind.

Give me leave, mad
piness your own soul

eg leave to present my most humble service to lord Galway. My wife's humble duty attends adyship; and we are both full of acknowledg- for the fine piece of venison you were pleased d us.

CLVI.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

e fine season continues, (for such I esteem a ne) I slacken in my scribbling; the pure air abundantly exceeds my tattle under the roof, h very well meant to you, whether sent in the h or English tongue. But although your hip spoke as well as you possibly could do of French, if you did it to encourage my use of it, ill be under a small disappointment, for I intent to keep my credit, and meddle no more, unless nking, as I really did then, and occasion no rd between us. Any partiality for that country have discharged sufficiently long since, and the is come to do the like to this we at present n. That there is a more sure abiding one, is elieving Christian's comfort, and to attain that our daily endeavour, and those that seek shall in due time: it is a blessing worthy the waiting (&c.)

• 1717—18) and not as proxy for the duke of York, p of Osnabrug, his uncle; on which the king was assed. But by this letter it appears there was a dis- ment before.

Lady Anne Harvey*. we
that there was, at one o'clock
quake which lasted a minute
she was asleep ; it was about
I am, say

19 June.

CLVII

TO THE EARL C

WHEN I scribble to lord G
little what I put down, as
grace, never to forfeit your
till I do that, have no fear I
point my mind is at ease. I
body were so ; but the pro
Almighty God can never be
servants, although painful.
months, or years, (to his
eternity ! In such a thou
may rejoice I verily believe ;
desire I may find grace, as I
the great day when the :
nounced.

I can truly grieve at the :
which is all I will say, as
I have inquired from Dr. Sh
this day ? He says, in a w
in the mercy of our God, al

* Daughter of lady Russell's
married first to Alexander Pope
lieutenant-general Harvey.

o with time. As I conclude you do not want my reports, so I enlarge not upon them; but take my way to lady Essex,* where all must be hushed. She is a good woman, yet not without a but; and where is her that is not? Let every one look into his own heart. I like to scribble longer, but want of day-light at home, and disappointment abroad, make it convenient to sign, as I most sincerely do, affectionate to your service in every respect.

December 12.

CLVIII.

TO THE EARL OF GALWAY.

It is to divert my own thoughts rather than yours take a pen, for as to reports, or rather unpleasing truths, I let them pass. The king and the good princess met as she was going or coming back from her dying child. Her conduct I hear none condemn; but who is there that never was faulty, or makes not a wrong step? My very long acquaintance, lady Essex, is no longer in this world, but not to be mentioned in relation to herself, being certainly sincerely devout in those points we ought to make our biggest care. She has done, I believe, prudently for her daughter, as circumstances stand. There is nothing delays miss Hoskins changing her name, at the act of parliament, which now is thought necessary in all cases almost.†

* Widow of Arthur, earl of Essex. Her daughter married the earl of Carlisle.

† The 4th year of George I. an act for settling the estates

be kindly welcome
be at your Rookle
mankind, grant y
upon earth, before
So does desire and
tionate cousin, and
utmost of her abilit
February 13.

The two last let
the text, to have t
as lady Russell was
extreme old age.—L
in her 87th year.

COURAGE AND

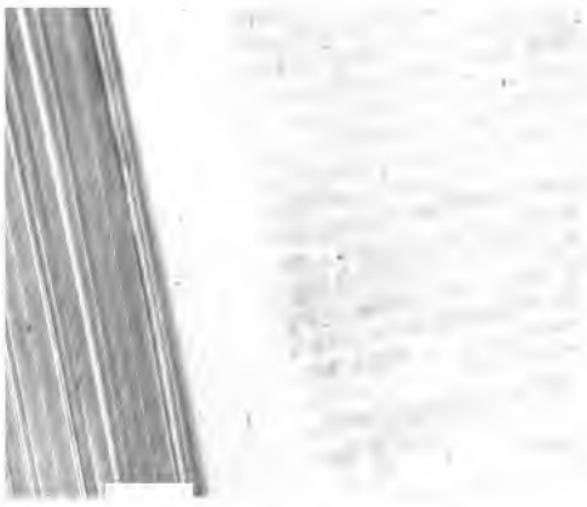
The following note

As I was reading in my closet, the door being
I, on a sudden the candle and candlestick
ed off the table, a hissing fire ran on the floor,
fter a short time left some paper in a flame,
I with my foot I put into the chimney, to pre-
mischief; then sat down in the dark to con-
whence this event could come. I knew my
and windows were fast, and there was no
open into the closet but by the chimney; and
something should come down there, and strike
andle off the table in that strange manner, I
'ed impossible. After I had wearied myself
thinking to no purpose, I rang my bell: the
at in waiting, when I told him what had hap-
I, begged pardon for having by mistake given
candle, with a gunpowder squib in it, which
ntended to make sport among the fellow ser-
on a rejoicing day."*

Her ladyship bade him not to be troubled at the
er, for she had no other concern about it than
of not finding out the cause.

THO. SELWOOD.

* In the reign of King William III.



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